

QUIET RIOT



Feminist punk group Pussy Riot members, from left, Yekaterina Samutsevich, Maria Alekhina and Nadezhda Tolokonnikova sit in a glass cage at a court room in Moscow, Russia on Friday, Aug 17, 2012. The T-shirt on right worn by Tolokonnikova is Spanish and translates to "They shall not pass", a slogan often used to express determination to defend a position against an enemy. A Moscow judge has sentenced each of three members of the provocative punk band Pussy Riot to two years in prison on hooliganism charges following a trial that has drawn international outrage as an emblem of Russia's intolerance to dissent.

(AP Photo/Mikhail Metzel)

Activists get 2 years for anti-Putin church stunt

VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Three punk rock-style activists who briefly took over a cathedral in a raucous prayer for deliverance from Vladimir Putin were sentenced to two years in prison for hooliganism on Friday, a decision that drew protests around the world as it highlighted the Russian president's intensifying crack-down on dissent. Protesters from Moscow to New York and musicians including Madonna

and Paul McCartney condemned the prosecution of the three women, members of a band called Pussy Riot. Several countries, including the U.S., and even some Kremlin loyalists decried the verdict.

Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, 22, Maria Alekhina, 24, and Yekaterina Samutsevich, 30, were arrested in March after performing a "punk prayer" in Christ the Savior Cathedral, dancing and high-kicking as they called on the Virgin Mary to save Russia from Putin, who was



A Police officer detains a supporter of the Russian punk group Pussy Riot outside a court in Moscow, Russia, Friday, Aug. 17, 2012.

(AP Photo/Misha Japardze)

elected to a third term as Russia's president two weeks later.

Judge Marina Syrova ruled Friday that the band members had "committed hooliganism driven by religious hatred."

She rejected the women's arguments that they were protesting the Russian Orthodox Church's support for Putin and didn't intend to offend religious believers.

Continued on next page

Finland FM flashes euro break-up

MATTI HUUHTANEN

Associated Press

HELSINKI (AP) — Finland's Foreign Minister, Erkki Tuomioja, warned Friday that eurozone members should be prepared for a collapse of the common currency as a struggling Europe edges closer to recession, dragged down by the crippling debt problems of the 17 countries that belong to the euro bloc.

He said that the small, triple A credit rated Nordic nation stands behind the euro but that Europe was in "a very unstable situation" in which every country should be prepared for the worst. "Our government is doing everything it can to save the euro and manage the crisis but what is obvious in every country is that everybody has to be also prepared for the worst eventualities. It would be irresponsible otherwise," he told The Associated Press. However, Tuomioja declined to reveal any Finnish contingency plans for a possible collapse of the euro, saying only that such a possibility had been aired in several discussions among senior politicians. He denied Finland was preparing to leave the euro, but nevertheless said that "Finland too is assessing what would happen" if the eurozone collapses.

The Social Democratic foreign minister was trying to clarify earlier comments he made to the British Daily Telegraph newspaper about "openly facing up to the possibility of a euro break-up," saying that the European Union could even function better if the euro collapses. He said that much had been done to solve the financial crisis in the eurozone but that "it has not been enough." He did not elaborate.

Tuomioja denied that the nation of 5 million, traditionally pro-EU and the only country in the Nordic

region to have adopted the euro, is euroskeptic despite the strong gains by a vociferous, opposition anti-bailout party in last year's parliamentary election.

"I think we have always been if not euroskeptic at least euro-realistic.

So we have not been euro-idealistic at any stage," he said. "When we joined the European Union I think that what was decisive is that there were many people who saw that there were also negative sides but positive sides and counted these together slightly in favor of joining." □



Finland's Minister for Foreign Affairs Erkki Tuomioja at a press conference in Helsinki, Friday Aug. 17, 2012. Finnish Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja warned Friday that eurozone members should be prepared for a collapse of the common currency as a struggling Europe edges closer to recession, dragged down by the crippling debt problems of the 17 countries that belong to the euro bloc. He said that the small, triple A credit rated Nordic nation stands behind the euro but that Europe was in "a very unstable situation" in which every country should be prepared for the worst.

(AP Photo /Martti Kainulainen)

Wildfires, heat threaten southwest France

PARIS (AP) — French authorities are fighting wildfires, keeping an eye on isolated elderly populations

and advising people to drink fluids as temperatures soar in the country. Heat wave warnings were

issued for a swath of central and southern France, from Burgundy to the Pyrenees. Temperatures are expected to reach up to 40 C (104 F) in some areas. The government is determined to avoid a repeat of the summer of 2003, when about 15,000 people died during a heat wave.

Wildfires raged around Lacanau in the southwest on Thursday. Patrick Stefanini, prefect for the Aquitaine region, said in remarks shown on French television that they were brought under control Friday morning. French television is airing public service announcements with recommendations to drink water and wear hats. □



People bathe at the Prophet beach in Marseille, southern France, Friday, Aug. 17, 2012. Six provinces in France are currently under a heatwave alert on Thursday with temperature in Paris expected to hit 36 degrees (96.8 Fahrenheit) Celsius during the weekend.

(AP Photo/Claude Paris)



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad speaks at the conclusion of an annual pro-Palestinian rally, marking Quds (Jerusalem) Day, on the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan, at the Tehran University campus, in Tehran, Iran, Friday, Aug. 17, 2012. Iran's president says Israel's existence is an "insult to all humanity." It's one of his sharpest attacks yet against the Jewish state. It comes as Israel openly debates whether to attack Iran over its nuclear program. Iran and Israel have been bitter enemies for decades. Israel considers Iran an existential threat because of its nuclear and missile programs and repeated references by Iranian leaders to Israel's destruction.

(AP Photo/Vahid Salemi)

Iran: Israel's existence 'insult to all humanity'

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Israel's existence is an "insult to all humanity," Iran's president said Friday in one of his sharpest attacks yet against the Jewish state, as Israel openly debates whether to attack Iran over its nuclear program. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said confronting Israel is an effort to "protect the dignity of all human beings."

"The existence of the Zionist regime is an insult to all humanity," Ahmadinejad said. He was addressing worshippers at Tehran University after nationwide pro-Palestinian rallies, an annual event marking Quds (Jerusalem) Day on the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan.

Israel considers Iran an existential threat because of its nuclear and missile programs, support for radical anti-Israel groups on its borders and repeated references by Iranian leaders to Israel's destruction. Ahmadinejad himself has repeatedly made such calls, as has Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Iran has denied allegations that it is seeking to build nuclear weapons, saying its nuclear program is peaceful and aimed at producing electricity and radioisotopes used to treat cancer patients.

Israel has been carrying on an increasingly public debate about whether to attack Iran's nuclear facilities. Israel's official position is to favor diplomatic and economic measures to persuade Iran to halt its uranium enrichment program, but Israel insists that Iran must not be allowed to obtain nuclear weapons. Israeli leaders say "all options are on the table," a clear reference to a military strike, if they determine that other measures have failed.

Iran has warned it would hit back at Israel if it is attacked, also threatening to strike at American interests in the region.

Ahmadinejad called Israel "a corrupt, anti-human organized minority group standing up to all divine values."

"Today, confronting the existence of the fabricated Zionist regime is in fact protecting the rights and dignity of all human beings," said Ahmadinejad, with a black and white scarf many Palestinians wear around his neck.

Demonstrators in Tehran set U.S. and Israeli flags on fire and chanted "Death to the U.S." and "Death to Israel" during their pro-Palestinian rally. □

Activists get 2 years for anti-Putin church stunt

Continued from front

Putin himself had said the band members shouldn't be judged too harshly, creating expectations that they could be sentenced to time served and freed in the courtroom. This, however, would have left the impression that Putin had bowed to public pressure, something he has resisted throughout his 12 years in power.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Putin couldn't intervene in the judicial process and refused to comment on the sentence.

When the sentence was announced, shouts of "down with the police state" rose from a crowd of hundreds of Pussy Riot supporters outside the courtroom. More than 50 people were detained, including former world chess champion Garry Kasparov,

who said police beat him. Protesters donned the colorful balaclavas that have become a symbol of the band in many European and U.S. cities, though no

In Kiev, Ukraine, four women, one of whom was topless, used a chainsaw to cut down a cross. About 40 protesters gathered in New York held up banners



Supporters of the Russian punk group Pussy Riot walk through downtown Warsaw, Poland on Friday, Aug. 17, 2012. A Moscow judge has sentenced each of three members of the provocative punk band Pussy Riot to two years in prison on hooliganism charges following a trial that has drawn international outrage as an emblem of Russia's intolerance to dissent.

(AP Photo/Alik Keplicz)

single protest outside Moscow drew more than a few hundred people.

that read: "We are all hooligans."

The crowd in Moscow in-

cluded many of the prominent writers, journalists and opposition partisans who spearheaded the mass protests that shook the city over the winter and spring. Pussy Riot was an obscure band of activists for much of that time, and some fellow opponents of Putin disapproved of their tactics, but they rallied to the group's defense after the March arrests.

For three hours as the judge read the verdict, the defendants stood in handcuffs in a glass cage in the courtroom, the same one where oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky, another Putin opponent, was convicted two years ago.

The three women smiled sadly as the judge recounted testimony of prosecution witnesses accusing them of sacrilege and "devilish dances" in the church and said that their feminist views made them

hate the Orthodox religion. Tolokonnikova laughed out loud when the judge read the testimony of a psychologist who said that her "active stance on social issues" was an anomaly.

The three women remained calm and kept smiling after the judge announced the sentence. Someone in the courtroom shouted "Shame!" They waved at relatives from behind the glass. The charges carried a maximum penalty of seven years in prison, though prosecutors had asked for a three-year sentence.

Popular Russian author Boris Akunin, a supporter of Pussy Riot who was outside the courthouse, said Putin "has doomed himself to another year and a half of international shame and humiliation."

"The whole thing is bad because it's yet another step toward the escalation of tensions within society."

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Romney, Obama now fight for edge on Medicare



Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney leaves his headquarters in Boston, Friday, Aug. 17, 2012.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

**C. BABINGTON
BEN FELLER
Associated Press
SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. (AP)**

— The jobs-and-economy election suddenly seems all about Medicare — for now, at least.

Republican Mitt Romney is embracing a topic his party usually approaches gingerly. He is taking a calculated risk that voters' worries about federal deficits and the Democrats' health care overhaul have opened the door for a robust debate on the solvency of Medicare, the insurance program for retirees.

President Barack Obama is welcoming the conversation, which has temporarily taken attention from the weak economic recovery. One party may regret its position on Nov. 6.

Retirees in politically prized states such as Florida have often resisted changes in Medicare, one of the government's most popular but costliest programs. But GOP strategists say today's voters realize Medicare spending must be constrained, and Romney is banking on disenchantment with Obama's 2010 health care law to pave the way for his own proposals.

Romney, who has spent more than a year running almost entirely on the economy and jobs, put Medicare at the campaign's center when he chose as his running mate. Rep. Paul Ryan is Congress' chief advocate of significantly restraining entitlement programs. Ryan was critical of Obama's handling of Medicare during a campaign stop in Springfield, Va., repeating his assertion that the GOP ticket welcomed the debate over the future of Medicare. The Wisconsin congressman is expected to revisit Medicare in some depth in Florida on Saturday. He will face voters in a retirement community north of Orlando known as The Villages. Ryan's 78-year-old mother, a Medicare recipient, plans to attend.

"We will not duck the tough issues; we will lead," Ryan told the Virginia crowd.

Romney's willingness to tackle the issue was underscored Thursday when he used a marker and classroom-type whiteboard to summarize his thoughts on Medicare, with hardly a word about the unemployment rate. He said his plans would keep Medicare solvent while Obama's would not, a claim Democrats call absurd.

On Friday, summarizing the political view from the right, the Romney campaign distributed a Wall Street Journal editorial that declared: "By governing so far to the left, Mr. Obama may have neutralized 'Mediscare' and made voters more receptive to center-right solutions. Medicare is already changing because it must." Obama's campaign has tried for months to tie Romney to House Republicans and Ryan's budget proposal, which would turn Medicare into a voucher-like system for future retirees.

The Obama campaign released a new TV ad Friday defending the president's record on Medicare. It points to the AARP, a group that represents senior citizens and said in a letter to lawmakers earlier this year that Ryan's plan would lead to higher costs for seniors.

Romney's campaign disputed the ad, and repeated its own claim that Obama's plans would siphon spending from Medicare without safeguarding the program's long-term stability.

Obama's campaign released a separate ad Friday that sought to undercut Romney by pointing to Ryan's voting record on funding for Planned Parenthood and abortion. Though Medicare dominated the debate Friday, the parties engaged in another brief skirmish on Romney's personal tax returns. His campaign rejected a call for Romney to release five years of his federal tax returns -- instead of the two years he has agreed to -- in exchange for the Obama campaign's pledge to drop further demands on the subject. □

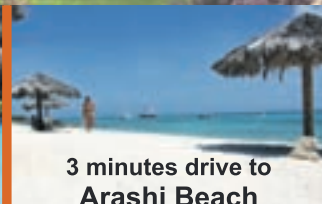
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Moody's: More California cities at risk of bankruptcy

GOSIA WOZNIACKA
HANNAH DREIER
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, California (AP) — One of the top U.S. credit rating agencies said Friday it will begin a wide-ranging review of municipal finances in California because of what it sees is a growing threat of increased city bankruptcies and bond defaults.

Moody's Investors Service issued a report saying that the growing fiscal distress in many cities in America's

long been characterized by low default rates and relatively stable finances, an outlook that is beginning to change as bankruptcy becomes a tool for cash-strapped cities. That requires Moody's to reassess the financial position of all California cities "to reflect the new fiscal realities and the governmental practices."

The agency will reviewing of other troubled states where financial difficulties may have put a strain on



A Stockton city worker walks away from city hall in Stockton, Calif. Stockton is one of three California cities to file for bankruptcy this year, which has led Moody's Investors Service to begin a review of municipal finances in the state because of what it sees is a growing threat of increased city bankruptcies and bond defaults. (AP Photo/Ben Margot)

most populous state was putting bondholders at risk. It noted that some municipalities were considering bankruptcy as a new strategy to address budget deficits and avoid obligations to bondholders, an emerging dynamic that could have ripple effects throughout the investment community.

Three California cities — Stockton, San Bernardino and Mammoth Lakes — have filed for bankruptcy so far this year. Moody's said they are not likely to be the last.

"To summarize, we expect ... more bankruptcy filings and bond defaults among California cities reflecting the increased risk to bondholders as investors are asked to contribute to plans for closing budget gaps," the report said.

The report noted that the municipal bond market has

local governments, according to Robert Kurtter, managing director of public finance at Moody's.

Kurtter would not say which states the agency will be examining, but mentioned Michigan and Nevada as examples of states that have been struggling. Friday's report noted that cities across the country are in financial distress, but said that a greater share of bankruptcies were expected to occur in California.

The report also noted the potential for ratings downgrades to fiscally distressed cities, counties, school districts and special districts throughout the state.

More than 10 percent of California cities have declared fiscal crises, according to the report.

"It is a lot," Kurtter said. "A declaration by 55 cities is a reflection of the broader fiscal stress in the state." □

Police release video in US patrol car shooting

JEANNIE NUSS
Associated Press
LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (AP)

— Police video taken the night a man was fatally shot in a patrol car while his hands were cuffed behind his back doesn't show whether he shot himself in the head as the officers involved said.

Chavis Carter, 21, died after police in Jonesboro, Arkansas, stopped a truck in which he was riding July 28 and learned he had an outstanding arrest warrant related to a drug charge. Carter was searched twice, handcuffed and put into the back of the patrol car, according to a police report. Officers a short time later saw Carter slumped over in the backseat and covered in blood, according to the report, which concluded he had managed to conceal a handgun with which he shot himself. He later died at a hospital, and the report listed his death as a suicide. On Friday, police released the video to The Associated Press and other news organizations under a public



Supporters of Chavis Carter and his family, including Taelor Chavis, second from left, 9, and Kimi Miller, center, 9, hold signs during the candlelight vigil held in honor of Carter on Monday, Aug. 6, 2012, at the First Baptist Church on Kitchen Street in Jonesboro, Ark.

(AP Photo/Krystin McClellan)

records request late Thursday, about three weeks after Carter was shot on July 28. The video did not show the shooting and it appeared to end before the officers found Carter slumped over and bleeding in the back of a patrol car as was described in a police report.

"There's still nothing in there about what actually happened with Chavis," said Benjamin Irwin, a Memphis-

based lawyer representing Carter's family.

Sgt. Lyle Waterworth, the spokesman for the Jonesboro police, said Friday that he hadn't seen the video yet and that he was trying to track down answers about why the footage stopped when it did. The internal police investigation into the shooting has not yet been completed and the FBI has said it is also monitoring the case. □

US Judge wary of new policy on Guantanamo Bay access

FREDERIC J. FROMMER
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S.

judge voiced skepticism Friday about new government restrictions on lawyers' access to detainees at Guantanamo Bay.

The restrictions apply to some detainees at the U.S. base in Cuba whose bids to challenge their confinement have been denied or dismissed. In those cases, lawyers must sign a "memorandum of understanding" to continue to be able to meet their clients. The memorandum says any meetings or communications with their clients are "subject to the authority and discretion" of the Guantanamo Bay com-

manding officer.

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it," said U.S. District Chief Judge Royce Lamberth, at a hearing on a challenge to the new restrictions by lawyers for some of the detainees. "It doesn't seem to be broken ... That's why I'm reluctant to change it."

Lamberth was referring to a 2008 District Court protective order laying out the procedures for Guantanamo detainees' access to legal counsel. There are nearly 170 men at Guantanamo.

"I can't for the life of me" figure out why the government has taken this position," the judge told a Justice Department official. The official, James J. Gil-

ligan, assistant director of the Civil Division's federal programs branch, said he anticipated the new system will operate "nearly identically" to the one that's been in place since 2008. He said that so far, lawyers for six detainees have signed the memorandum. "We have not done anything to threaten detainees' access to counsel," Gilligan said, adding that if lawyers are improperly denied access, they could challenge that in court. "As far as access to the base, we are not asking for anything different," he added. Gilligan said the main difference is the access that the lawyers have to classified information. □



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Texas teacher convicted after sex with 5 students

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — A former Texas high school teacher was convicted Friday after having sex with five 18-year-old students at her home.

It took the jury less than an hour to conclude that Brittnei Nicole Colleps, 28, of Arlington, was guilty of 16 counts of having an inappropriate relationship between a student and teacher. The second-degree felony is punishable by two to 20 years in prison per count.

Sentencing was scheduled for Friday afternoon.

The former Kennedale High School English teacher had sex with the students at her home over two months in 2011, authorities said.

Colleps is married and has three children. She turned

herself in after a cellphone video of one encounter that involved multiple students emerged. That video was shown a trial.

Three former students who testified Thursday said that they did not consider themselves victims and did not want to see their former English teacher prosecuted. The three were football and track athletes.

Arlington police Detective Jason Houston testified that charges were filed because "18 or not, it's a crime" for a teacher to have sex with her students.

Two former students told jurors their relationships with Colleps began with the exchange of text messages that quickly turned sexual.

A 19-year-old testified that



Former Texas high school teacher Brittnei Colleps speaks with a defense lawyer during her trial in Fort Worth, Texas. Colleps, 28, of Arlington, was guilty of 16 counts of having an inappropriate relationship between a student and teacher.
(AP Photo/Ron T. Ennis)

he had gone to Colleps' home twice with friends and they all engaged in sexual conduct.

A former student who is now 20 testified that he

engaged in group sex and recorded his last encounter on a cellphone. He said initially the students spoke of the importance of keeping their activities quiet

because they didn't want their teacher to get in trouble.

The 20-year-old also said when school officials called him into the office to question him in May 2011, he denied the trysts at first because "I was trying to save her."

Colleps' husband was serving in the military overseas at the time of the encounters.

Christopher Colleps said Friday that he is mad at his wife, but stands by her "because 'til death do us part means 'til death do us part."

Putting her in jail would punish him and their children for something they had no control over, he said.

Kennedale is a town of about 7,300 residents near Arlington, eight miles southeast of Fort Worth. The high school has about 3,200 students. □



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Rare provision in U.S. bias case aims to heal wounds

JOANN LOVIGLIO Associated Press PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A recently settled racial discrimination lawsuit involving dozens of Hispanic and black city children who said they were shunned by a swim club in an overwhelmingly white suburban neighborhood includes an unusual provision that aims to heal the wounds caused by the ordeal. The settlement, which still needs to be approved in U.S. Bankruptcy Court, calls for \$65,000 to be set aside to be used on joint activities between parents and children from the Creative Steps day camp in Philadelphia and The Valley Club in Huntington Valley.

The Creative Steps camp had paid \$1,950 for 65 mostly black and Hispanic children to swim each Monday afternoon at the gated swim club, set on a leafy hillside straddling two overwhelmingly white townships. But after the group arrived for its first visit on June 29, 2009, several children reported hearing racial comments and seeing some white swim club members pulling their children out of the pool. The club told the children not to return, and the day camp's payment was refunded.

Parents and children from the camp and swim club are looking forward to planning activities together, at-

torneys said Friday.

"The hopes are that both sides will come together, hold events together," said Brian Mildenberg, an attorney for Creative Steps. "Swimming, field trips, going places together, maybe day camps, just to be kids together, learn about each other and interact with one another."

Between 15 and 20 parents have agreed to participate and "want this outreach to work on healing what happened that day," he said.

The money will be held by the federal district court in Pennsylvania and, upon application by the group, could be released to pay for events. □



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Clown had iPad stolen from Steve Jobs' home

GARANCE BURKE

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A

professional clown who used an iPad pilfered from the home of the late Steve Jobs to play pop songs at a street fair while he made balloon animals said Friday he had no idea his friend had snatched the tablet.

Kenneth Kahn, who wears a curly rainbow wig when he performs at children's birthday parties as Kenny the Clown, said his friend gave him the iPad in exchange for money he owed Kahn for a vacation the pair planned to take to Hawaii. "He owed me \$300 for the plane tickets, so he said he had an Apple computer that he wasn't using anymore. I said fine, not having any clue what the hell was going on," Kahn told The Associated Press. The professional entertainer, who has also made unsuccessful bids to become mayor of Alameda and San Francisco, said he never examined the

contents of the device.

Instead, he downloaded Dave Brubeck's "Take Five," Michael Jackson's "Smooth Criminal," and other songs for his clown routine, which includes magic shows and juggling

torches on a unicycle.

Kahn, 47, said he played music on the iPad for a few days at the art and wine fair before police came for it. The device has been returned to the family of Jobs, who died last Oct. 5.



"Kenny the Clown," otherwise known as Kenneth Kahn, smiles as he hands out balloons in San Francisco, Friday, Aug. 17, 2012. Kahn says he unwittingly received a stolen iPad from a friend who was later arrested for breaking into former Apple CEO Steve Jobs' residence in Palo Alto. Kahn said he had the stolen iPad for a few days before police came asking for the purloined tablet, which was returned to the Jobs family. The professional entertainer said he never examined the device's contents. Instead he downloaded the "Pink Panther" and other songs to play while entertaining kids and tourists during his clown routine. Kahn said had no idea where the 64GB iPad came from until his friend, 35-year-old Kariem McFarlin of Alameda, Calif., was arrested Aug. 2.

(AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

"The thing that is embarrassing to me is I'm a huge fan of Steve Jobs," Kahn said. "It's just bizarre."

Kariem McFarlin, 35, of Alameda was arrested on suspicion of breaking into the Palo Alto residence of the Apple co-founder. Kahn said he had no idea where the iPad came from until McFarlin was taken into custody on Aug. 2.

Apple investigators identified McFarlin after he used the stolen device to connect to his iTunes account on the Internet, police said. He acknowledged to police that he broke into Jobs' residence, as well as other homes, and wrote an apology letter to Jobs' widow, according to a police report. McFarlin targeted the unoccupied Palo Alto

home on July 17 because it was under renovation, authorities said. When construction crews left, he hopped a fence and found a spare key, according to the San Jose Mercury News. The newspaper said the suspect apparently didn't realize he was in Jobs' house until he saw a letter addressed to the Silicon Valley icon.

During the 15-hour overnight heist, Jobs' wallet and driver's license were taken as well as iPhones, iPads, iPods, Mac computers, champagne and \$60,000 worth of Tiffany & Co. jewelry, police said.

Kahn said he met McFarlin when he coached him on a high school basketball team in Alameda more than a decade ago. □

Black US journalists protest debate diversity exclusion

NEW YORK (AP) — A group of black journalists says it is disappointed in the lack of ethnic diversity among the people chosen to moderate U.S. presidential debates.

The National Association of Black Journalists said Friday that the Commission on Presidential Debates needed to stop treating black reporters and other minority journalists as if they were unqualified, invisible or both. The group said diversity was important in a year in which as much as a quarter of the electorate is

expected to be non-white. Candy Crowley of CNN, Jim Lehrer of PBS and Bob Schieffer of CBS News were selected to moderate the three debates between President Barack Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney ahead of the November election. Martha Raddatz of ABC News will moderate the debate between Vice President Joe Biden and Republican candidate Paul Ryan. A commission representative did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Earlier this week, the president of the Spanish-speaking television network Univision criticized the lack of Latino representation among the moderators and suggested a separate forum hosted by two Univision personalities.

In response, the commission noted that a number of groups and individuals wanted to be included, but it was impossible to accommodate everyone. The commission said that the journalists selected see their assignment as representing all Americans. □



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New Syria envoy: all conflicts can be solved

EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

After two decades as a diplomatic troubleshooter in hotspots from Afghanistan to Iraq, Lakhdar Brahimi firmly believes that every conflict can be solved.

That conviction will be put to the test in his new job as the joint United Nations-Arab League special envoy charged with trying to succeed where his former boss Kofi Annan failed — bringing an end to the 18-month conflict in Syria.

"I think his biggest challenge is convincing the international community to intervene and end this — whatever it takes, because non-intervention has a much higher cost than intervention," Nadim Shehadi, a Middle East expert at London's Chatham House think tank, said in a telephone interview Friday. "Leaving this to go on is going to create more sectarianism, more extremism and more spillover to the region, and the Assad regime is capable of anything to stay in power."

Brahimi brings a unique background and a wealth of experience to a task that many leaders and pundits have written off as impossible. He was a freedom fighter in his native Algeria, drifted into diplomacy after his country's independence from France in 1962, became undersecretary-general of the Arab League from 1984-1991, and

returned to Algeria as foreign minister from 1991-1993.

In 1994, Brahimi took his diplomatic skills to the United Nations, taking on key assignments in South Africa, Haiti, Afghanistan during and after the Taliban rule, and Iraq after Saddam Hussein's ouster. He chaired a panel that examined U.N. failures in Rwanda's genocide and the massacre at Srebrenica during the Bosnian war, and recommended a major overhaul of U.N. peacemaking efforts and peacekeeping operations.

Reflecting on his 20 years spent trying to make peace, Brahimi acknowledged in a speech in 2010 that conflicts are terrible and difficult and the cause or the result of problems that need to be solved.

Nonetheless, he added, "I still believe very, very strongly that there is no conflict that cannot be solved." "We, people, make these problems," Brahimi told the Skoll World Forum on Social Entrepreneurship in Oxford, England. "And we should be able to solve them. We can solve them."

Brahimi said he also learned that in dealing with conflicts "obviously you see a lot of wickedness, a lot of cruelty, a lot of injustice, but you also

come across a lot of kindness, a lot of courage, and a lot of forgiveness, and that makes up for it."

He recalled that when former U.S. Senator George Mitchell accepted the job as President Barack Obama's special envoy

the organization's special envoy trying to mediate an end to Lebanon's civil war. There were several failed attempts to end the fighting, he said, but finally on Sept. 24, 1989, "we clinched a ceasefire" that looked like it



Former Algerian foreign affairs minister Lakhdar Brahimi in Cernobbio, Lake Como, Italy. The United Nations has announced that Brahimi will replace Kofi Annan as peace envoy to Syria. U.N. deputy spokesman Eduardo del Buey announced Friday, Aug. 17, 2012, that the former Algerian foreign minister and longtime U.N. official would succeed Annan as joint U.N.-Arab League envoy. The 78-year-old Brahimi has worked in several high-profile positions at the U.N., gaining a reputation as a tough, independent negotiator as envoy to Afghanistan, Iraq and Haiti. He helped negotiate the end of Lebanon's civil war.

(AP Photo/Luca Bruno)

to the Middle East in 2009, Mitchell said, "you live 800 days of frustration for one day of satisfaction."

During his years at the Arab League, Brahimi served as

would hold — and it did, leading to the Taif agreement that ended the 15-year conflict. "These kinds of satisfactions are the things that one works for,"

Brahimi said.

Brahimi officially retired in 2005, though he remains active as a lecturer and participant in several non-profit organizations focusing on global affairs. He has taken on special assignments including heading a U.N. panel that investigated the December 2007 bombing of U.N. headquarters in Algiers. He is also a member of The Elders, the international group of prominent statesmen founded by Nelson Mandela that has been speaking out on major issues.

Now 78, the tall, grey-haired diplomat will be stepping into the job held by Annan, a close friend who as U.N. secretary-general sent him to Afghanistan twice, then to Iraq, and then brought him to New York as a special adviser and undersecretary-general in 2004-2005.

Brahimi knows the Mideast and its key players well and speaks Arabic, French and English fluently. His years spent trying to end Lebanon's civil war put him in close contact with Syria, which for years maintained a strong military presence in Lebanon even though the Taif agreement called for an eventual withdrawal of Syrian forces. Brahimi was also in a key Arab League position when Syria made its dramatic decision in 1990 to participate in the U.S.-led coalition that routed Saddam Hussein's forces from Kuwait in the first Gulf War. □

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S. African leader vows probe into mine shootings

MICHELLE FAUL
THOMAS PHAKANE
Associated Press
MARIKANA, South Africa (AP) — President Jacob Zuma rushed home from a regional summit Friday and announced an official inquiry into a police shooting of striking miners that left 34 dead and 78 wounded, an incident that police claimed was self-defense despite video recordings suggesting the protesters were not attacking them but running from clouds of tear gas.

Wives of miners at the Lonmin platinum mine northwest of Johannesburg searched for loved ones missing from Thursday's shooting and staged a protest, demanding to know why officers fired automatic rifles, pistols and shotguns at the strikers, many of whom had been armed with spears, machetes and clubs.

"Police stop shooting our husbands and sons," read a banner carried by the women on Friday. They kneeled before shotgun-

toting police and sang a protest song, saying "What have we done?" in the Xhosa language.

At least 10 other people have been killed during the week-old strike, including two police officers battered to death by strikers and two mine security guards burned alive when strikers set their vehicle ablaze. Tensions remained high Friday among strikers, who are demanding monthly salary raises from \$625 to \$1,563.

"They can beat us, kill us and kick and trample on us with their feet, do whatever they want to do, we aren't going to go back to work," winch operator Makhosi Mbongane told The Associated Press. "If they employ other people they won't be able to work either. We will stay here and kill them."

South Africa faces myriad problems 18 years after white racist rule ended, including growing inequality between a white minority while most blacks endure high unemployment and in-

adequate housing, health care and education.

The shootings "awaken us to the reality of the time bomb that has stopped ticking — it has exploded," The Sowetan newspaper said in a front-page editorial Friday. "Africans are pitted against each other... They are fighting for a bigger slice of the mineral wealth of the country."

The shootings appalled the country, recalling images of white police firing at anti-apartheid protesters in the 1960s and 1970s, though in this case it was mostly black police firing at black mine workers.

Police said at a news conference that the shootings were in self-defense, noting that strikers possessed a pistol taken from one of the slain officers. But video footage indicates that police shot the miners moments after firing tear gas at the hill the strikers were occupying, causing them to flee.

National police Chief Mangwashi Victoria Phiyega said at news conference that Thursday was a



Unidentified women hold a placard that reads "Piega come Piega (Phiyega)" as they protests against the police near a shooting scene at the Lonmin mine near Rustenburg, South Africa, Friday, Aug. 17, 2012. Police chief Mangwashi Victoria Phiyega says 34 miners died and another 78 were wounded when police opened fire on strikers in one of the worst police shootings in South Africa since apartheid.

(AP Photo/Themba Hadebe)

dark day for South Africa and that it was no time for pointing fingers, even as people compared the shootings to apartheid-era state violence and political parties and labor unions demanded an investigation.

Zuma returned home from a summit in Mozambique and announced an official inquiry into the killings,

which he called shocking and tragic. The president headed directly to the mine, 70 kilometers (40 miles) northwest of Johannesburg, where his office said he would visit injured miners in the hospital.

Lonmin PLC chairman Roger Phillimore issued a statement Friday saying the deaths were deeply regretted. □

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Brazilian worker survives head impalement

RENATA BRITO
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A 24-year-old construction worker survived after a 6-foot metal bar fell from above and pierced his head, doctors said Friday. Luiz Alexandre Essinger, chief of staff at Rio de Janeiro's Miguel Couto Hospital, said doctors successfully withdrew the iron bar from Eduardo Leite's skull during a five-hour surgery. "He was taken to the operating room, his skull was opened, they examined the brain and the surgeon decided to pull the metal bar out from the front in the same direction it entered the brain," Essinger said. He said Leite was conscious when he arrived at the hospital and told him what had happened. He said Leite was lucid and showed no negative consequences after the op-



This tomography scan released Thursday, Aug. 16, 2012 by the Miguel Couto hospital, shows the skull of 24-year-old construction worker Eduardo Leite pierced by a metal bar in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Doctors say Leite survived after a 6-foot metal bar fell from above him and pierced his head. Luiz Essinger of Rio de Janeiro's Miguel Couto Hospital Friday told the Globo TV network that doctor's successfully withdrew the iron bar during a five-hour-long surgery. (AP Photo/Miguel Couto Hospital)

eration.

"Today, he continues well, with few complaints for a five-hour-long surgery," Essinger said. "He says he feels little pain."

The bar fell from the fifth floor of a building under construction, went through Leite's hard hat, entered the back of his skull and exited between his eyes, Essinger said, adding: "It really was a miracle" that Leite survived.

The accident and surgery took place on Wednesday.

"They told me he was lying down (in the ambulance) with the bar pointing upward," said Leite's wife, Lilian Regina da Silva Costa. "He was holding it and his face covered in blood. His look was as if nothing had happened. When he arrived he told the doctors he wasn't feeling anything, no pain, nothing."

Venezuela: economy up 5.4%

FABIOLA SANCHEZ

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela's economy grew in the second quarter to a level 5.4 percent ahead of the same period last year, the government said Friday. A report released by Venezuela's Central Bank said increases in both the public and private sectors contributed to the gain, continuing economic growth for a seventh straight quarter following a nearly two-year recession.

Increased public spending coupled with high prices for oil exports also helped the growth in Venezuela's gross domestic product, the report said.

It said the construction sector expanded 17.6 percent in the April-June quarter, driven by the government's efforts to build millions of apartments for mostly homeless and poor Venezuelans.

The banking sector benefited from increased monetary liquidity, growing 34.4 percent, and commerce increased 9.8 percent, the report said.

Industrial production, which has traditionally helped boost economic activity, dropped 9.4 percent during the second quarter. The mining sector also showed a decrease, falling 4.5 percent in part because of problems at state-run mining companies, the report said.

Japan deports 14 Chinese citizens in island dispute

MARTIN FACKLER

© 2012 New York Times

TOKYO — Japan said Friday that it deported 14 Chinese citizens who were arrested on or near a disputed island, moving quickly to defuse a potentially damaging standoff with China, which also claims the island.

Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda of Japan and members of his Cabinet decided to send the Chinese back rather than to pursue criminal charges, Chief Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura said.

Japanese television showed seven of the Chinese citizens landing in Hong Kong on a commercial flight. The Japanese authorities said the other seven were put back on the boat they had used to reach the island and were being escorted out of Japanese waters by the coast guard. The 14, who included activists and journalists based in Hong Kong, were arrested Wednesday after seven of them arrived by boat on Uotsuri, part of an uninhabited island chain in the East China Sea called the Senkakus by Japan and Diaoyu by China. The islands are controlled by Japan but are also claimed by China and Taiwan.

Five of the Chinese were arrested on the island, and the other nine on the boat, including two who had stepped ashore. By deporting the 14 so soon after their arrest, Japan appeared to be trying to quickly end a potential diplomatic crisis. Chinese officials also appeared interested in keeping the episode from growing into a full-blown spat, demanding the immediate release of the 14 but seeming to avoid an escalation of harsh words. Even protests in front of Japanese diplomatic missions in China were small and relatively muted compared with past demonstrations. Japanese news reports said police had considered filing charges of illegally entering Japanese territory and damaging government property after some of the activists threw bricks at Japanese coast guard vessels.

The 14 apparently staged the landing to protest against Japanese plans for the central government in Tokyo to buy the islands, most of which are currently owned by a private Japanese citizen. When questioned by Japanese police, the 14 denied breaking any law, saying they did not need Japanese permission to land on what they called Chinese territory.

On Friday, the Japanese prime minister and his advisers also considered strengthening surveillance of the islands and the imposition of more severe penalties for unauthorized visits in an effort to prevent a recurrence of similar incidents, Fujimura, the Cabinet official, said.

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In UK threat to Ecuador, experts see mistake

RAPHAEL SATTER
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — It was a warning meant to remind Ecuador that Britain's patience has limits. But as the stalemate over Julian Assange settled in Friday, it appeared London's veiled threat that it could storm Ecuador's embassy and drag Assange out has backfired — drawing supporters to the mission where the WikiLeaks founder is holed up and prompting angry denunciations from Ecuador and elsewhere. Experts and ex-diplomats say Britain's Foreign Office, which warned Ecuador of a little known law that would allow it to side-step usual diplomatic protocols, messed up by issuing a threat it couldn't back up. "It was a big mistake," said former British ambassador Oliver Miles. "It puts the British government in the position of asking for something illegitimate." Britain's warning was carried in a set of notes delivered to Ecuadorean diplomats Wednesday as they tried to negotiate an agreement over Assange, who has spent nearly two months holed up at the Latin American nation's London mission in a bid to avoid extradition to Sweden, where he's wanted over allegations of sexual assault.

The notes, published by Britain on Thursday, said ominously that keeping Assange at the embassy was incompatible with international law. They added: "You should be aware that there is a legal basis in the U.K. — the Diplomatic and Consular Premises Act — which would allow us to



The Ecuadorian flag flies outside a building housing the Ecuadorian Embassy in central London, Friday, August 17, 2012. As the stalemate over Julian Assange settled in Friday, it appeared London's veiled threat that it could storm Ecuador's embassy and drag Assange out has backfired — drawing supporters to the mission where the WikiLeaks founder is holed up and prompting angry denunciations from Ecuador and elsewhere.

(AP Photo/Leiferis Pitarakis)

take action to arrest Mr. Assange in the current premises of the embassy." Britain passed the law in 1987, after a deadly shooting in 1984 in which a Libyan diplomat opened fire on demonstrators from within his country's London em-

bassy, killing a British police officer. The Ecuadoreans were outraged by the notes, accusing Britain of threatening to assault their embassy and calling a crisis meeting of the Union of South American Nations. The ripples

from the controversy continued to spread Friday, with Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs saying in a brief message posted to Twitter that the issue raised questions about diplomatic protections.

Britain's Foreign Office insists its missive was "not a threat," something that Miles dismissed with a laugh.

"If I tell you, 'I'm not threatening you but I DO have a very large stick here,' it's a question of semantics," he said.

Assange, who has been holed up inside Ecuador's small embassy since June 19, claims the Swedish case is merely the opening gambit in a Washington-orchestrated plot to make him stand trial in the United States — something disputed by both Swedish authorities and the women involved.

In a radio interview Friday, Ecuador's president Rafael Correa said he feared that Assange could face a pos-

sible death penalty if he was prosecuted and convicted in the United States.

"I am not in agreement with everything that Julian Assange has done but does that mean he deserves the death penalty, life in prison, to be extradited to a third country.

Please! Where is the proportionality between the crime and the punishment? Where is due process?" Correa said.

Correa insisted that his nation was not seeking to undermine Sweden's attempts to question Assange over allegations made by two women who accuse him of sexual misconduct during a visit to the country in mid-2010.

"The main reason why Julian Assange was given diplomatic asylum was because his extradition to a third country was not guaranteed, in no way was it done to interrupt the investigations of Swedish justice over an alleged crime. In no way," Correa said. □

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For Eurozone, a lost decade looms

JACK EWING

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FRANKFURT, Germany – The eurozone is hurtling back into recession, economists declared this week after official figures portrayed a shrinking economy. But by some measures, the downturn has been under way for years.

With the exception of Germany, none of Europe's biggest economies have returned to the level of economic output they had at the beginning of 2008, before the subprime mortgage crisis in the United States spread across the Atlantic, according to calculations by two U.S. economists, Peter Rupert and Thomas F. Cooley.

In contrast, by the end of 2011, the U.S. had regained all of the ground it lost since 2008.

The figures suggest that Europe is well into what could be a lost decade – a period of pernicious stagnation and wasted potential that could have lasting effects on ordinary citizens.

Economic growth that is not realized represents invest-

ments in education that were never made, research that was never financed, businesses that failed and careers that ended too early or never got off the ground.

"There are larger implications that people don't think about," said Rupert, a professor of economics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. "There is a huge decline in human capital."

Just what signals the beginning and end of a recession is not always easy to pinpoint. One common definition is two consecutive quarters of falling output. By that standard, the eurozone is technically not yet in a recession.

Most economists agree, though, that a recession is also defined by other indicators like unemployment, industrial production and investment. The closest Europe has to an arbiter on the question is a committee of prominent economists convened by the Center for Economic Policy Research, a research organization in London.

By the committee's estimate, the eurozone's last recession ended after the second quarter of 2009, the point at which the region hit bottom and began to grow again. The panel, known as the Euro Area Business Cycle Dating Committee, has not yet begun to consider whether the eurozone is in recession again. But few people would argue that Europe, stricken by a self-inflicted debt crisis that began in 2010, has basked in prosperity recently.

"This is more than just a regular business cycle," said Carl B. Weinberg, chief economist at High Frequency Economics in Valhalla, N.Y. "I can't think of a time in the postwar period in any major industrial countries where we have had a downturn resume before the previous cycle was over."

Only Germany is wealthier than it was in the first quarter of 2008, when economic activity peaked. France is close, according to Rupert and Cooley, a professor at the Leonard N. Stern School of Business at New

York University. The two publish a blog that tracks the business cycle, at europeansnapshot.com.

Spain and Italy are both effectively back where they were in the darkest days of 2009, after the collapse of

row, while the Italian economy has been shrinking for a year. There is little doubt that they are deep in recession. Some economists predict that France, and even Germany, could follow.



A waiter holds cups from a table in the terrace of an empty restaurant in Madrid, Spain, August 4th, 2012. With the exception of Germany, none of Europe's biggest economies have returned to the level of economic output they had at the beginning of 2008.
 (Ginnette Riquelme/The New York Times)

Lehman Brothers set off a financial crisis that undermined the world economy. Both countries resumed growing in 2009 but stalled in the middle of last year. Since then, Spain's gross domestic product has declined three quarters in a

Although the U.S. regained its 2008 footing at the end of 2011, it took twice as long as after any other recession since World War II, according to Cooley and Rupert. They estimate that had the U.S. continued growing at the same average pace as it has since 1950, the country would be more than \$1.5 trillion wealthier today. While economists already knew that the eurozone's GDP was still catching up with 2008, experts like Cooley and Rupert have been parsing the statistics to show how broadly the downturn has affected Europe's largest economies in the form of rising unemployment, declining consumer spending and falling investment.

Weinberg and others warn that the eurozone is on the same path as Japan in the 1990s, when a failure to deal with weak banks led to a decade of stagnation. "There are some really good analogies," Weinberg said. "The Japanese never fixed their banks. There is a lesson to Europe in this."

The social effects of so many years of poor economic performance are "very worrisome," said Lucrezia Reichlin, a professor of economics at London Business School. □



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Paseo Herencia stages a rousing welcome for Chilean Travel Executives

Over the past weekend, a delegation consisting of travel executives, VIP's and travel media from Chile was welcomed to Aruba by representatives of the Aruba Tourism Authority.

Their purpose was to become familiar with various aspects of the island's tourism product, as Chile now has easier access to Aruba through direct flights, and there is great interest in the



island in that market. The delegates started their FAM-trip with an exciting evening of traditional island entertainment and a gourmet meal under the stars at Paseo Herencia shopping and entertainment center in Palm Beach. The mall's General Manager, Valerie Pietersz-Camacho, personally greeted the delegation, who were provided prime seating around the Plaza Padu to enjoy some impromptu dinner theater. Kids in Action dance group provided the entertainment for a special show



enjoyed not only by the Chilean group, but several families out and about enjoying the mall's amenities for a pleasant summer's evening before school starts again.

Chilean travel delegates were quite impressed with the elegant meal and delightful ambiance of the mall. A "Taste of Aruban Carnival" production number brought them to their feet and before the audience to reveal a number of them had a natural talent for moving their hips, the island way. Obviously, they were not newcomers to the irresistible rhythms of carnival music. Paseo Herencia is a popular night time diversion for islanders and visitors with



a diversity of shops, restaurants and free nightly entertainment. This special welcome was truly memorable for the delegates, allowing the Chilean guests and general public to interact and become acquainted. It was an authentic sample of Aruban hospitality. □

Matthew Fiore honored at Marriott Surf Club



Recently Matthew Fiore, resident of Grafton Massachusetts, was honored as Distinguished Visitor after returning Aruba for 10 years. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for between 10 and 20 consecutive years. Darline S. de Cuba, repre-

senting Aruba Tourism Authority, together with Jaine Arends, conducted the ceremony at Marriott Surf Club.

The main reasons why they keep coming back to Aruba are the friendly people, and because Matthew likes walking on the beach and floating in the ocean with a tube. Congratulations! □

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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the Westin Resort, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort



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Windows on Aruba Serves Sumptuous Brunch every Sunday

Divi Links – Windows on Aruba recently refreshed its la carte brunch, and continues to offer gourmet food in a tranquil and elegant setting every Sunday from 10:30 a.m. till 2:00 p.m., inviting patrons to take a culinary journey up and down the lovely menu, by Executive Chef Paul Zijlstra, paired with bottomless flutes of brut champagne and mimosa. The tasteful dishes, the beautiful view and the live music, work together to present a most enjoyable afternoon. The menu serves moderate portions of beautifully plated hot and cold appetizers, soups, main courses and desserts, thus allowing brunch-goers the freedom to sample as many dishes as they please.

The Brunch menu at Windows on Aruba features Breakfast Sweets such as Croissants and Danish, Waffles and Fruit or Pancakes and Syrup as starters, also tempting patrons with classic Egg Dishes such as Eggs and Salmon, Eggs and Hollandaise sauce. An array of cold appetizers, with Duck and Pear, or Prosciutto and ruffles among them, introduce taste buds to a surprising, new combination. Soup lovers find flavor and comfort in the creamy Pumpkin and Curry, or the heartier Onion and Gouda. In the hot appetizer section Scallops and Mackerel are featured besides Snails and Garlic, always a crowd pleaser.

When the time for main course arrives, patrons consider Chicken and Blue Cheese, or Seafood and Saffron, Salmon and Mustard or Tenderloin and Ravioli all accompanied by interesting sides. Desserts are always spectacular at Windows on Aruba featuring Crêpes Suzette with a warm orange Cointreaux sauce and vanilla ice cream or the classic signature Divi dessert such as Chocolate and Coffee, a pairing of mousse and parfait, and Chocolate and Cheese Cake with Coconut ice cream. Sipping and sampling continuously, taking brunch to the next level, that's a perfect Sunday afternoon, at Windows on Aruba. □



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Honoring at Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort



Recently, several loyal visitors of Aruba were honored as Goodwill Ambassadors and Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for between 10 and 20 years consecutive. The honorees are members of the Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort, and have been enjoying the Island every year. The honorees were Maher and Mervat

Sidhom, George Jr. and Linda Middleton, and Joseph and Antoinette Stassi. Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority and Avril of Guest Relations conducted the ceremony at Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort. Top reasons for returning provided by the honorees were they consider Aruba to be the Happy Island, the great weather, and Friendly Aruban Hospitality, white sand beaches and the local food. □

American Style Burgers Rule!!

The inspiration for a good American style hamburger comes right from the owners backyard grill. Aaron Walisever – before his 'retirement' – was known as "The King of Fireplaces & Grills" in New England. Moving to Aruba from Sharon, Massachusetts with his wife Rosie was a positive move all around – but their search for a good burger and fries didn't stretch far from home. It was this reason that Rosie & Aaron opened 5 Burgers Aruba! As the name implies, there are 5 specialty burgers offered including a mammoth Western Burger, a tasty melted Gouda Burger, a Farmers Burger complete with a fried egg. For the very hungry, a 3 patty Man Burger and to round out the specials – a zesty chicken breast with special sauce is also available.

Of course, hamburgers and cheeseburgers – small and regular sized are also on the menu. But the big surprise is the hand-cut daily – french fries – from select Idaho potatoes and hand-made onion rings! Cooking these in peanut oil leaves the pure potato flavor in the fry. A favorite way to enjoy fries is with vinegar! These complement any meal ordered at 5 Burgers! Burgers are pressed daily and are U.S.D.A.

choice beef only and lightly seasoned with a special spice blend. They can even satisfy you if you desire a veggie burger. Toppings are encouraged and available at no additional charge – raw or grilled onions & mushrooms, lettuce, tomato, BBQ sauce and many more tasty items. Brand new items to the menu include a hand-made beef empanada and chicken bites. 5 Burgers Aruba is open from Noon to 10-ish daily. Delivery is available to your pool or hotel room! They are located behind Senor Frogs and across from the Radisson Hotel. Come by and enjoy a great burger experience. Rosie & Aaron are often on site – making sure that you are happy with your burger experience! Call 5 BURGERS ARUBA at 586-3904. □



SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



Charl Schwartzel, of South Africa, reacts after missing a putt on the 18th green during the second round of the Wyndham Championship golf tournament in Greensboro, N.C., Friday, Aug. 17, 2012.

Associated Press

Walker shoots 62, takes 1-shot lead at Wyndham

JOEDY McCREARY

AP Sports Writer

GREENSBORO, North Carolina (AP) — Jimmy Walker

played what he called boring but extremely effective golf to shoot an 8-under 62 on Friday and moved to the top of the leaderboard at 12 under in the Wyndham Championship.

Defending champion Webb Simpson was a stroke back after a 63, and first-round leader Carl Pettersson (68), Tim Clark (67), Sergio Garcia (63) and rookie Harris English (64) were 10 under.

Tim Herron matched the tournament record with a 61, but was still seven strokes back.

Play was halted for 1 hour, 17 minutes late in the day by thunderstorms.

Walker, who began the day four strokes back, had eight birdies in compiling one of the best two-day scores in event history. Only Pettersson at 125 in 2008 was better than Walker through 36 holes at Sedgefield Country Club.

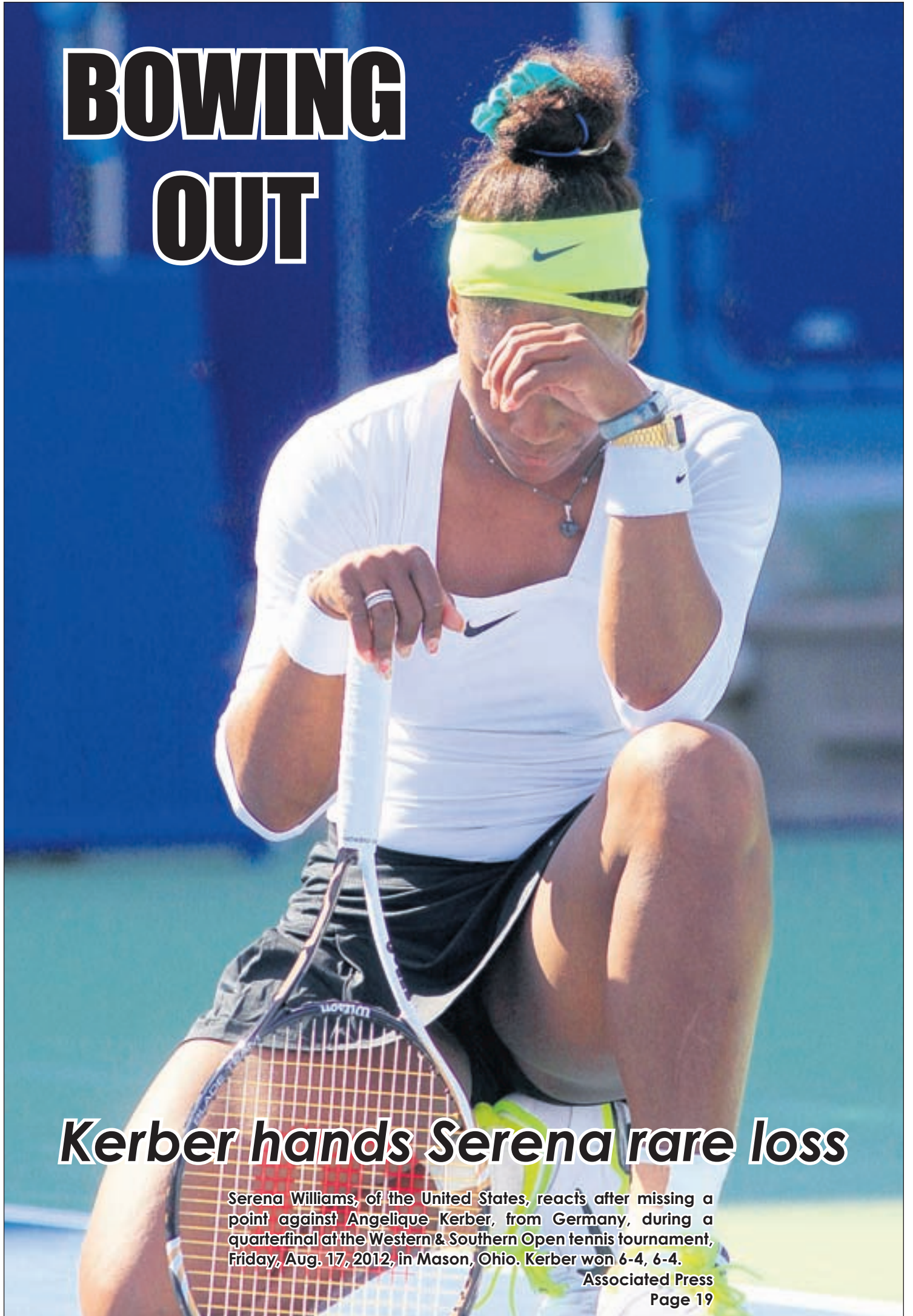
Continued on Page 21

BOWING OUT

Kerber hands Serena rare loss

Serena Williams, of the United States, reacts after missing a point against Angelique Kerber, from Germany, during a quarterfinal at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, Friday, Aug. 17, 2012, in Mason, Ohio. Kerber won 6-4, 6-4.

Associated Press
Page 19



Armstrong, USADA argue over jurisdiction in case



This Feb. 12, 2012 file photo shows seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong waiting for the start of the Ironman Panama 70.3 triathlon in Panama City, Panama.
Associated Press

RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The American governing body for cycling says it must accept the jurisdiction of the sport's international

federation and side against the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency in the court fight to determine which has group has jurisdiction over the Lance Armstrong doping case.

Meanwhile, in new papers filed Friday in U.S. District Court in Austin, Texas, USADA claims federal courts have no basis to intervene in its case against the seven-time Tour de France winner, who is charged by the agency with repeated use of performance-enhancing drugs.

The charges filed by the agency in June have set off a multi-continent, multi-agency fight among various cycling and anti-doping bodies over just who should handle the

Armstrong matter.

Armstrong filed a lawsuit trying to block USADA's case him, arguing the agency's rules violate athletes' constitutional right to a fair trial.

The International Cycling Union (UCI) then asserted it has jurisdiction in the matter, saying USADA had no basis to get involved. USADA says its authority stems from the World Anti-Doping Agency, the U.S. Olympic Committee and the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act. Armstrong's lawyers wrote a letter Friday to U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks, attaching a letter from Stephen Hess, a lawyer from USA Cycling.

"USAC believes that UCI has the power to express

its interpretation of WADA's anti-doping code," Hess wrote.

Also attached was a letter from UCI President Pat McQuaid to USAC Chief Executive Officer Steve Johnson on Thursday, stating "USADA has no jurisdiction for testing in international races."

Sparks held a hearing on Aug. 10 and is expected to rule as soon as next week.

"The World Anti-Doping Agency, the organization charged with monitoring international compliance with the code, has determined USADA has results management authority in this case because USADA discovered the alleged anti-doping rule violations," the agen-

cy's lawyer, William Bock III, wrote to Sparks on Friday.

USADA said that if Armstrong disputes the process, he cannot go to court but could bring a case in an American Arbitration Association process and then potentially appeal an arbitration decision before the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

USADA CEO Travis Tygart said: "UCI's attempt to control the outcome through pressuring USA Cycling is tellingly sad and is further evidence why USADA as an independent national anti-doping agency that exists solely to protect clean athletes and the integrity of sport is the proper body to handle the case." □

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Serena Williams upset, Venus reaches Cincy semis

By JOE KAY

AP Sports Writer

MASON, Ohio (AP) -- Only one of the Williams sisters is heading to a semifinal, and it's not the one with the long winning streak. Serena Williams lost that - and her cool - at the Western & Southern Open.

Williams had her 19-match streak snapped by Germany's Angelique Kerber on Friday, a 6-4, 6-4 defeat that marked the first time she'd even lost a set since her title at Wimbledon. The third-longest winning streak of her career didn't end quietly.

She flung her racket at the ground, picked it up and slammed it on the court again as the second set slipped away.

"I probably need a break," she said.

While Serena fumed over missed shots, older sister Venus had another jump-for-joy day. She reached the semifinals of a tournament for the first time this season by beating Samantha Stosur 6-2, 6-7 (2), 6-4.

On the men's side, Novak Djokovic and Juan Martin

del Potro won in straight sets, setting up a rematch of their bronze medal match at the Olympics. Del Potro won that one.

After all of her summer success on Wimbledon's grass, Serena Williams is having a tough time getting readjusted to hard surfaces. One of the best stretches of her career included single and doubles gold medals at the Olympics in London.

She came into Friday's match with a 64-4 record in the summer hard-court season over the last two years. Against Kerber, her game fell apart.

She missed so many easy shots that after she hit an overhead that landed in the court, she smiled and raised her arms in mock triumph.

Her sister thinks the last few weeks have caught up with her.

"She's played so many matches since Wimbledon," Venus Williams said, as her sister struggled on the court. "I don't think anyone has played as many matches and played

as successfully as her.

"I think some rest is in order for her."

Wearing an Olympics shirt after her match, Serena Williams agreed she needs a little time to get recharged for the U.S. Open.

"I'll be better in New York, I promise," she said.

First, she's going to stick around to watch her sister's resurgence. Venus Williams raised both arms and jumped - kicking up her heels - after winning a three-setter for the third time in the tournament, an indication she's learning to manage an immune system disorder that leaves her tired.

She'll play China's Li Na in the semifinals.

"For me and everything that's gone on in my life, it's a huge achievement and I want to take it further," Venus Williams said.

The men's side features an Olympics replay on hard court. Del Potro beat Djokovic on Wimbledon's grass to win his bronze, the first of four medals for Argentina.

"He won that match,"



Venus Williams returns a serve against Samantha Stosur, from Australia, during a quarterfinals match at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, Friday, Aug. 17, 2012, in Mason, Ohio.

Associated Press

Djokovic said. "It happens. You lose, you win, but the most important thing is to try to move on and become even better and even stronger from those experiences. And try to win."

Del Potro has been nursing a sore left wrist that he'll

have examined before the U.S. Open, which he won in 2009. He beat France's Jeremy Chardy 6-1, 6-3 to reach the semifinals.

The right-hander missed most of the 2010 season while recovering from surgery on his right wrist. □



Pittsburgh Pirates' Garrett Jones (46) rounds third as third base coach Nick Leyva (16) greets him after Jones hit a three-run home run in the first inning of the baseball game against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Thursday, Aug. 16, 2012, in Pittsburgh. Jones hit another three-run shot in the fifth inning as the Pirates won 10-6.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pittsburgh's Garrett Jones hit two three-run homers to

power the Pirates to a 10-6 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Thursday, avoiding a three-game

Jones drives in 6 runs as Pirates down Dodgers

NL Roundup

sweep.

Jones had a career-high six RBIs for the Pirates, who had lost six of seven. He homered in the first and fifth for his fifth two-homer game of his career.

Pittsburgh starter A.J. Burnett (15-4) became the first Pirates pitcher this century to notch 15 wins in a season. He allowed seven hits with seven strikeouts.

Dodgers starter Joe Blanton (8-11) fell to 0-2 since being acquired in a trade from Philadelphia. He gave up eight runs and a season-worst four walks in 4 1-3 innings. Los Angeles had won six straight.

METS 8, REDS 4

In Cincinnati, rookie Matt Harvey drove in one more run than he allowed as

New York snapped Cincinnati's five-game winning streak.

Harvey (2-3), who had lost three straight starts after winning in his major league debut, allowed one run in 7 2-3 innings.

He struck out eight, walked one and hit a batter. Harvey doubled in two runs in New York's three-run fourth inning.

Ike Davis and Jason Bay hit solo home runs for the Mets, who capitalized on three errors.

The Reds, who entered with a season-high, seven-game lead in the NL Central, had it cut to six over Pittsburgh.

Cincinnati starter Homer Bailey (10-8) allowed six runs in 5 1-3 innings.

DIAMONDBACKS 2, CARDINALS 1

In St. Louis, Paul Gold-

schmidt and Chris Young homered on consecutive pitches in the ninth inning to lift Arizona over St. Louis. With St. Louis ahead, Jason Motte (4-4) struck out the first batter in the ninth. Goldschmidt fouled off three full-count pitches, then drove a pitch over center for his 18th home run of the season. Young sent the next pitch over the wall in left.

Diamondbacks reliever David Hernandez (2-2) pitched a perfect eighth, and J.J. Putz finished with a 1-2-3 ninth for the save.

Arizona had lost its previous seven games against St. Louis dating to last season.

BRAVES 6, PADRES 0

In Atlanta, Chipper Jones homered twice and Kris Medlen pitched a shutout to lead Atlanta over San Diego. □



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Sanya Richards-Ross wins DN Gala race

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Olympic champion Sanya Richards-Ross was pushed to the limit by Botswana's Amantle Montsho before coming through to win the women's 400 meters at the DN Gala Diamond League meeting on Friday.

American Richards-Ross took the lead from Montsho in the closing stage of the race to win in 49.89 seconds. Montsho finished on 50.03, with Britain's Christine Ohuruogu taking third in 50.77.

"I feel good. Coming back for a race like this after the Olympics, you can feel physically and emotionally drained," Richards-Ross said. "But it went pretty well. And the atmosphere was fantastic."

Earlier, American Michael Tinsley beat Olympic champion Felix Sanchez

into second place in the 400-meter hurdles, clocking 48.50 seconds. Dominican Sanchez, who had beaten Tinsley to the gold medal at the London Games, finished 0.43 behind while Jamaican Leford Green was third in 48.97.

"I think it's pretty good to get your legs going after the Olympics," Tinsley said. "There is a lot of physical and mental stress going into the Olympics, so it's nice to come out and relax and run."

Sanchez, who only arrived in Stockholm from his home country on Friday, felt he couldn't have done much better in the circumstances.

"My legs are really tired and I didn't get out well at all," he said. "My stride pattern was all messed up, so I was happy to come second. I haven't been in



Sanya Richards-Ross of the US reacts after winning the 400m event at the Stockholm Samsung Diamond League event in Stockholm, August 17, 2012.

Associated Press

Stockholm for 24 hours.

My body is on auto-pilot right now."

Olympic triple jump champion Christian Taylor of the United States managed 17.11 meters to win his event. Ukraine's Sheryf El Sheryf was second with 17.04 and Russian Lyukman Adams took third with 16.93.

"It went wonderful today," Taylor said. "My hopes were high and every time I compete I try to go over that 17-meter barrier... Obviously I'm on a high from the Olympic Games and I am just so blessed to have a wonderful coach, and winning this has been the icing on the cake."

Shot put star Valerie Adams, coming off the New Zealander's second Olympic gold in London, dominated her event, throwing 20.26 meters.

Russian Yevgenia Kolodko was second with her 19.08-meter throw, while Germany's Christina Schwanitz was third with 18.72.

"The goal was to win today, that's always the goal," Adams said. "I wanted to throw more but after the drama that's gone on over the last seven days it's been pretty hard to get back up. So I'm happy with the win."

Croatia's Olympic discus champion Sandra Perkovic set a new meeting record, winning her event with a 68.77-meter throw. Russian Darya Pischalnikova was second (66.85) and German Nadine Muller third (65.07). □



Phoenix Mercury's Alexis Hornbuckle, left, loses control of the ball as Seattle Storm's Shekinna Stricklen, right, crashes into her in the first half of a WNBA basketball game, Thursday, Aug. 16, 2012, in Seattle.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP)

— New York's Cappie Pondexter scored 24 points to lead the Liberty to a 79-66

win over the Connecticut Sun as the WNBA resumed after a hiatus to accommodate the Olympics.

Plenette Pierson, who had

Liberty beats Sun as WNBA resumes

missed the Liberty's last eight games before the break due to a left knee strain, had 16 points for the hosts.

Renee Montgomery scored 16 points for the Sun, whose lead atop the Eastern Conference was trimmed to three games ahead of Indiana.

FEVER 84, MYSTICS 66

In Indianapolis, Erlana Larkins scored a career-high 16 points to help Indiana

beat Washington.

Larkins also matched career highs with seven rebounds and three steals.

Tamika Catchings, fresh off winning her third gold medal for Team USA, had 14 points and 14 rebounds. The double-double was the 76th of her career, tied her with Lauren Jackson for third in WNBA history.

Monique Currie scored 12 points for the Mystics, who remained in last place in the East. □

Gentry unlikely star as Rangers down Yankees

AL Roundup

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Texas' Craig Gentry, starting for the first time in two weeks, hit a two-out, two-run single in the seventh inning that lifted the Rangers to a 10-6 victory over the New York Yankees on Thursday.

The Rangers avoided a four-game sweep in a matchup of AL division leaders and won for the first time at Yankee Stadium in nine attempts.

The Yankees led 5-4 before the Rangers came back with three runs in the seventh. David Murphy hit a tying RBI double off Boone Logan (4-1) and, after an intentional walk that loaded the bases, Gentry lined a tiebreaking single up the middle.

Texas reliever Tanner Scheppers (1-0) won his first big league decision.

RAYS 7, ANGELS 0

In Anaheim, David Price pitched seven scoreless innings to notch his AL-leading 16th victory and lead

Tampa Bay over Los Angeles.

Price (16-4) struck out eight and allowed only two runners to third base. Price is 8-0 with a 1.72 ERA in his past 11 starts.

Tampa Bay got home runs from Evan Longoria, B.J. Upton and Ben Zobrist.

Los Angeles has gone 32 consecutive innings without scoring against the Rays.

Angels starter Dan Haren (8-10) gave up five runs in 3 1-3 innings. He has allowed at least one home run in each of his past 10 starts; a career worst.

RED SOX 6, ORIOLES 3

In Baltimore, Clay Buchholz shook off a rocky start to earn the win as Boston downed Baltimore.

After giving up six hits over the first two innings, Buchholz (11-3) kept the Orioles at bay, and the Red Sox rebounded from a 3-1 deficit. He allowed three runs in eight innings and struck out seven.

Dustin Pedroia singled in the tiebreaking run in the

sixth inning as the Red Sox added three runs in that frame against Luis Ayala (4-4).

WHITE SOX 7, BLUE JAYS 2

In Toronto, Alex Rios hit a three-run homer against his former team to help Chicago beat Toronto.

Rios' shot was added to by four solo homers as the White Sox matched a season high by going deep five times. The power surge helped the White Sox win their first series in Toronto since 2006.

Chicago starter Francisco Liriano (4-10) allowed three hits with six strikeouts in 6 1-3 innings to win for the first time with his new team since arriving from Minnesota.

Toronto's Aaron Laffey (3-4) allowed three runs in six innings.

ATHLETICS 3, ROYALS 0

In Kansas City, Coco Crisp and Yoenis Cespedes homered as Oakland downed Kansas City.

Crisp was 2 for 27 this season against his former team before the home run. His



Boston Red Sox's Dustin Pedroia, left, looks up as home plate umpire Laz Diaz, center, and Red Sox's Cody Ross (7) signal "safe" as while scoring on a sacrifice fly by Adrian Gonzalez against the Baltimore Orioles during the fifth inning of a baseball game on Thursday, Aug. 16, 2012, in Baltimore. The Red Sox won 6-3.

Associated Press

drive hit high off a wall beyond the fence and rebounded back onto the field. It was first ruled a double, but after A's manager Bob Melvin disputed the call, umpires viewed replays and changed it to a home run.

Athletics starter Dan Straily (1-0) earned his first major league victory with 6 1-3 scoreless innings.

Royals starter Luke Hochevar (7-11) gave up three runs in seven-plus innings. He is 0-8 with a 6.52 ERA in nine career starts against Oakland.

In other AL games it was Texas 10, N.Y. Yankees 6; Boston 6, Baltimore 3; Chicago White Sox 7, Toronto 2; Oakland 3, Kansas City 0; and Tampa Bay 7, L.A. Angels 0. □

Walker shoots

Continued from Page 17

"I was playing with J.B. (Holmes), and he was bombing the driver everywhere, and I was just kind of bunting the 5-wood around and hitting good approach shots," Walker said. "It was pretty boring-looking golf — not a lot of drivers, not a lot of 3-woods.

There's a lot of 5-woods and some irons, and it's just kind of placement around the golf course."

Walker hopes his strong round proves that he's getting back to the form from earlier this year, when the winless 33-year-old Texan finished in the top 10 in three of his first six tournaments.

Things went south when he tore his left meniscus, so instead of going to the U.S. Open, he went to the doctor for a cortisone shot to reduce the swelling.

Now that he can bend down and read greens again, he can do some damage with his putter. He

used it just 26 times Friday, and didn't even need it on No. 2 because he chipped in from 50 feet.

"If it wouldn't have gone in, it probably would have rolled over the back of the green," he said.

Pettersson, who shot a 62 on Thursday while playing in the morning, found his familiar Sedgefield course to play tougher in the afternoon. The local resident and member of the country club's board of directors had two bogeys in a three-hole span midway his round, then came on strong with consecutive birdies on Nos. 9-10 and an eagle on the par-5 15th.

The Swede-turned-American broke his driver on the next-to-last hole of the first round, used his backup driver Friday and will stick with it the rest of the weekend.

"I struggled today," Pettersson said. "Didn't have much today, but I thought it was a good comeback. ... Two-under par was OK for the game that I had,



Jimmy Walker lines up a putt on the ninth green during the second round of the Wyndham Championship golf tournament in Greensboro, N.C., Friday, Aug. 17, 2012.

Associated Press

and hopefully I can hit the ball better on the weekend and have a chance."

Simpson, a native North Carolinian and U.S. Open champ who's defending a title for the first time in his career, got hot on the back nine

with birdies on four of his final five holes to rocket up the leaderboard.

"To play a round on a golf course this tricky without a bogey is always a good thing," Simpson said. Herron rebounded for a first-round 76. He became

the fourth player in five years here to shoot a 61.

"I didn't really have anything to lose," Herron said. "I kind of zoned in a little bit today and just kind of kept rolling and making putts." It might have been just the strong round he needed to secure himself a spot in the FedEx Cup playoffs.

Herron arrived at No. 133 on the points list and has to crack the top 125 to qualify for The Barclays next week. The field is littered with players trying to prolong their seasons for at least one more week.

Among those on the borderline who made it to the weekend were No. 122 Trevor Immelman, No. 129 Y.E. Yang and No. 133 Chez Reavie.

No. 126 Brendan Steele appeared to be in trouble before a run of four straight birdies pushed him to 3 under.

For others, there was bubble trouble. No. 121 Boo Weekley and No. 125 Jonnattan Vegas missed the cut of 1 under. □

Science takes big step toward a male medical contraceptive

Todd Ackerman

© 2012 Houston Chronicle

A Houston-Boston research partnership has found the ingredients for a male birth control pill, a breakthrough approach that promises the first reversible contraceptive for men since the introduction of the condom centuries ago.

In a paper published Thursday, the team described a compound that, worming its way past the barrier that separates blood and sperm, makes mice temporarily infertile - without putting a damper on their sex drive. The mice's sperm rebounded and produced healthy offspring when they stopped getting the compound.

"With all the unplanned pregnancies, this is an important discovery," said Dr. Martin Matzuk, a Baylor College of Medicine developmental biologist and the paper's first author.

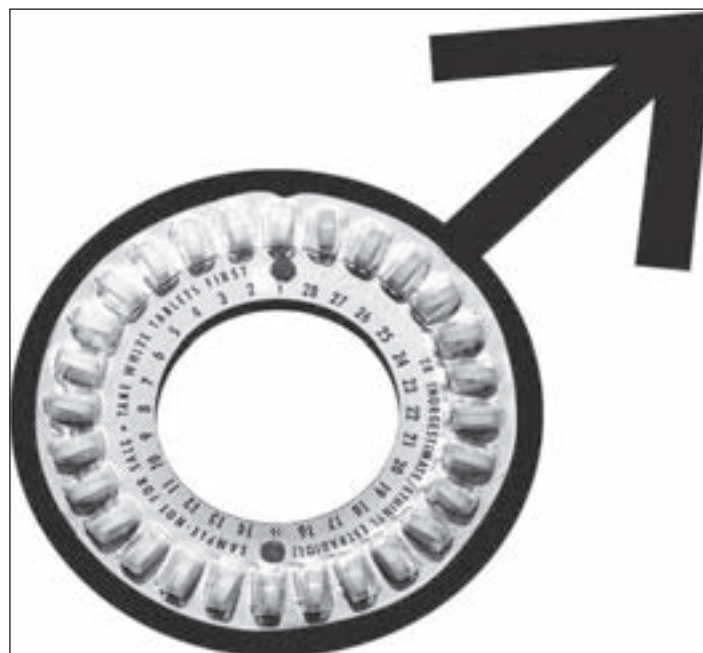
Scientists have been trying to develop an oral male contraceptive since the birth control pill for women hit the market 52 years ago. But the goal has proved elusive, largely

because men make 1,000 sperm every second, compared to women's one egg a month. Turning that production off is difficult.

The compound itself isn't a candidate for human use as a male contraceptive. But Dr. James Bradner of Harvard University's Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Matzuk's collaborator, said the study findings offer a blueprint for the development of a drug derivative. He said the team is working on that now.

The study, detailed in the journal *Cell*, provides the first evidence supporting a molecular approach to male contraception. Most previous research has involved hormones, which have worked in testing but cause side effects such as lowered libido, mood swings and depression.

So many men reported such side effects in a recent eight-country, hormone-based contraception study that the World Health Organization last year brought an early halt to the project. Drug companies have stopped investing in the approach.



A Houston-Boston research partnership has found the ingredients for a male birth control pill, a breakthrough approach that promises the first reversible contraceptive for men since the introduction of the condom centuries ago. (Photo)

But the demand for a male pill remains high, particularly given the hundreds of thousands of American births and abortions involving teenagers and global statistics that half a million women a year die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth.

Dr. John Amory, a University of Washington profes-

sor of medicine and contraceptive researcher, says surveys show two-thirds of American men say they're interested in and would be willing to use a birth control pill. The same surveys show 98 percent of women say they'd trust their partner to take such a pill. (Only 70 percent said they'd trust "all men.")

Even now, despite the limited options, men account for 30 percent of couples' contraceptive efforts - condoms representing 20 percent and vasectomies 10 percent. The new compound was created as a possible anti-cancer agent. But when Bradner found it also inhibits a related protein involved in the development of sperm and essential for fertility, he sent it to Matzuk for testing. Matzuk, whose lab had already shown the mice missing the protein were infertile, figured how much of the small-molecule compound was needed, then injected solutions of it into mice. Those mice began producing fewer sperm and the sperm they did produce swam poorly.

"This is fabulous work," said Amory, who was not involved in the research. "It should guide rapid development of contraceptive drugs for men." The future delivery mechanism of the new compound is still unknown, but Matzuk said he didn't envision any reason it couldn't be given as a pill. □

'Mirror fasts' help take the focus off yourself

KATE MURPHY

© 2012 New York Times

Narcissus had only a pool of water in which to gaze, but we see our reflections at almost every turn. In bathroom mirrors, shop windows, sliding subway doors, brass elevator banks and even in the screens of smartphones: No matter where you go, there you are. Mindful of what happened to Narcissus (it wasn't good), some people are trying to abstain from looking at their reflections for a day, a week, a month or even a year.

These "mirror fasts" are becoming more popular, judging from the number of bloggers reflecting on not reflecting. Those who have engaged in the exercise report that not seeing themselves helped them see themselves more clearly.

"It gave me a lot of seren-

ity," said Autumn Whitefield-Madrano, 36, a freelance writer and copy editor in New York City, who has gone on two month-long mirror fasts in the last two years, avoiding her reflection even in the pots and pans of her kitchen and chronicling how this changed her view of herself in her blog, *The Beheld*. (She allowed herself to use a 1 inch-by-1 inch mirror for applying makeup during her first fast because it limited her view to only one feature at a time. But on her second fast, she did it by feel.) "I was surprised at how quickly I stopped worrying about how I looked," she said, "and if I wasn't thinking about it, I assumed no one else was either, which is actually true."

Freed of that concern, Whitefield-Madrano said that she began to focus



In bathroom mirrors, shop windows, sliding subway doors, brass elevator banks and even in the screens of smartphones: No matter where you go, there you are. Mindful of what happened to Narcissus (it wasn't good), some people are trying to abstain from looking at their reflections for a day, a week, a month or even a year.

on more important issues like her work and relationships. "I hadn't realized how much I used the mirror as a life raft: to see that I at least looked 'normal' when things weren't going well," she said. "When I took it away, I had to be really honest with myself."

Kjerstin Gruys, a 29-year-old sociology graduate student in San Francisco, similarly found she had more brain space available when she abstained from looking in the mirror. Her yearlong mirror fast, which ended in March, was documented on her blog, *Mirror, Mirror ... Off the Wall*. "All the other interesting things in my life - my goals, passions, friends, family, favorite hobbies, etc. - have attracted the energy and attention I used to give to my looks," Gruys wrote in a recent post. □

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Kickstarter projects generate millions of dollars

PETER SVENSSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A funny thing happens on Kickstarter, the website where people ask for money to finance their projects. Sometimes, they get more money than they ask for. Sometimes, they get millions more.

In April, three-person startup Pebble Technology sought to raise \$100,000 to make 1,000 wristwatches that can be programmed with different clock faces. Donors on Kickstarter showered them with more than 100 times that amount: \$10.3 million. It would have gone higher had Pebble not put a cap on contributions and ended the fundraising early.

"We had tried raising money through the normal routes, and it didn't really work," said Eric Migicovsky, the 25-year-old founder of Pebble.

Kickstarter is the largest of dozens of sites devoted to crowdfunding, in which donors contribute small sums of money to get a project off the ground. Inventors, artists and entrepreneurs post their projects on a Kickstarter page, usually with a video presentation. They set a fixed duration for their fundraising, from one to 60 days, and a dollar goal for contributions. Anyone can contribute. If the goal isn't reached by the deadline, no money changes hands and the project is cancelled. Usually, the contributors

get something beyond the satisfaction of knowing they helped turn a dream into reality — like a ticket to a theater production, or in the case of Pebble, a programmable watch. Designer Casey Hopkins asked for \$75,000 to make a luxury iPhone dock out of solid aluminum. He got \$1.4 million. When that happened, in February, his was the first Kickstarter project to surpass \$1 million. There have been eight more since then. Artist Rich Burlew asked for \$57,750 to put his comic books back in print, and ended up with \$1.3 million.

Since launching in 2009, Kickstarter has raised \$323 million for projects. Starting a project is free, but Kickstarter takes 5 percent of contributions if a project is funded, and Amazon.com Inc. takes another 3 to 5 percent for processing the payments. The funds are usually subject to taxes as well.

Crowdfunding started as a way to fund band tours and albums. Kickstarter wasn't the first site of its kind. It is, however, the most successful. Co-founder Perry Chen has said that the site was born out of his frustration at being unable to organize a concert. But it's becoming a potent launchpad for tangible products as well, upending in some cases the usual way things get made.

There's a time-worn route for entrepreneurs: They come up with an idea, find funding, make a product,

sell it, then pay back the funders — with interest or an equity stake in the fledgling company. Under that model, funders are usually looking for a big payoff on their early investment.

Finding funding is, of course, where many projects hit the rocks. Those who put up money for a project have to be convinced that it will yield something others want — and that's not easy to figure out.

For contributors to take part in a Kickstarter project, all they have to do is ask themselves: Do I want that? In that sense, Kickstarter is a great way to sell things that don't yet exist. In effect, Pebble sold 85,000 watches, and artist Rich Burlew sold 94,000 books. Now, they just have to make these things.

Migicovsky, the Pebble founder, is based in Silicon Valley, where venture capital runs in rivers. He got some funding from "angel investors" — wealthy individuals — early on and produced a small run of watches last year. But to realize his vision of a programmable watch that only needs to be charged once a week, he needed more money. The venture capitalists, who generally invest bigger sums than angels, didn't bite. They're used to backing Web and software projects but are apprehensive about hardware, he says.

So Migicovsky went to Kickstarter, figuring he'd raise enough money for a production run of 1,000



In this April 27, 2012 photo, Pebble Technology founder Eric Migicovsky poses for a portrait wearing the Pebble watch, in New York.

Associated Press



watches. But the project got attention from technology blogs, and the orders started pouring in. Over 37 days, he sold one watch every 38 seconds. Frantically trying to satisfy the orders, he hired six people in two weeks, tripling Pebble's staff.

The watches will be ready this fall — without the help of venture capital.

"You want to spend your time talking to customers. You don't really want to spend your time talking to venture capitalists. Because at the end of the day, they're just guys with money," Migicovsky says. The success of Pebble and others is clearly attracting more ambitious projects. A Los Angeles-based startup, Ouya, is collecting money to create a game console. It set a \$950,000 minimum — reflecting the complex-

ity of competing against the PlayStation, Xbox and Wii — and hit \$8.6 million in pledges.

David Tisch, the founder of "startup accelerator" firm TechStars, says posting a product on Kickstarter is a great way to gauge demand. If it turns out to be strong, that can make it easier to attract investment that can turn the project into an ongoing business.

"For the first time, there's a way to get customer feedback with money attached to it," he said.

While entrepreneurs revel in the attention they get from donors on the website, Kickstarter's founders are uncomfortable with the site's role as a fundraising tool for products. □

Stocks up slightly on strong retail results

JOSHUA FREED
AP Business Writer

Stocks resembled summer vacationers on Friday, rising not-too-impressively in the morning and then mostly laying around for the rest of the day.

Positive news from retailers was the main reason U.S. indexes posted small gains. Apple helped too by hitting a new high.

Traders in both the U.S. and Europe are on vacation, so volumes were low. And the dog days continued for Facebook. A 4 percent decline left it shares at about half the price of its May initial public offering.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 25.09 points to close at 13,275.20. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 2.65 points to close at 1,418.16. The Nasdaq rose 14.20 points to close at 3,076.59.

The modest gains put some indexes close to their highs for the year. The Dow is now within four points of 13,279, its high for the year set on May 1. The S&P 500 is within one point of its four-year high set on April 1.

The Dow has now risen

eight out of the last 11 days and finished the week up a half-percent. The Dow is sporting a gain for the year of almost 8.7 percent for the year, while the S&P 500 is up almost 12.7 percent.



Specialists Thomas Bishop, left, and Michael Pistillo work at their post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stock futures were relatively flat ahead of the release of the latest data on consumer sentiment Friday, Aug. 17, 2012, amid a mixed bag of earnings from retailers.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Next week is likely to be more eventful. Investors will get Chinese housing reports, minutes from a closely-watched Federal Reserve meeting, and jobless

claims. And Europe's problems, which were mostly off center stage in recent days, return front-and-center as German Chancellor Angela Merkel meets in Berlin with Greek Prime Min-

trading it could really move markets around," said John Canally, investment strategist at LPL Financial.

Strong retail earnings and outlooks drove Friday's gains. Gap Inc. shares rose 4.8 percent after it boosted its outlook and posted a 29 percent jump in net income. That suggests the operator of Gap, Old Navy and Banana Republic stores is finally on the way to a turnaround.

Shares of Ann Inc., the parent of retailer Ann Taylor, jumped 20 percent after its second-quarter profit rose 24 percent. Foot Locker rose 1.7 percent after quarterly profits leaped 59 percent, boosted by higher sales, cost controls and a small tax-related gain.

A few retailers did struggle. Sears Holdings Corp. fell 1.3 percent, giving back some of Thursday's big gain.

Expectations for retailers were low, but they beat them, said Lawrence Creatura, portfolio manager at Federated Investors.

"Nobody going into the summer expected a vibrant consumer, so expectations were muted," he said. □

Oil rises; US considers release from reserves

SAMANTHA BOMKAMP
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The price of oil rose to its highest point in three months Friday, topping off four straight days of gains, on signs U.S. consumers are gaining confidence in the economy.

Benchmark oil rose 41 cents in New York to end at \$96.01 per barrel — the first time it's finished above \$96 since May 11. It gained 3.4 percent this week on positive economic data and a drop in U.S. oil supplies, and is up 23 percent from its late-June low.

The Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan preliminary August index of consumer sentiment released Friday showed its highest level since May. Most economists had been expecting a decline. That, combined with surprisingly strong retail sales and housing data, spread hope this week that

the economy is gaining traction. Consumer spending drives roughly 70 percent of growth.

Word that the Obama administration is considering a release of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to stem the rising cost of crude appeared to have more impact on Brent crude, which is used to price international varieties of oil.

Brent fell \$1.56 to close at \$113.71 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange in London. Before Friday, Brent had climbed more than \$10 per barrel this month on concerns about production outages in the North Sea. It's also more influenced by developments in the Middle East.

A senior administration official, who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly, told The Associated Press Friday that the



Suzanne Meredith, of Walpole, Mass., gasses up her car at a Gulf station in Brookline, Mass. The price of oil rose to its highest point in three months Friday, topping off four straight days of gains, on signs U.S. consumers are gaining confidence in the economy.

(AP Photo/Steven Senne)

U.S. is monitoring gas prices to see whether they fall before making a decision to tap strategic reserves.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters Friday that the move is an option, but he didn't elaborate.

Gas prices in the U.S. have

increased an average of 39 cents a gallon (3.8 liters) since early July, because of an increase in oil prices and refinery and pipeline problems in some regions. Drivers in about 40 states are now paying more for gas on average than at this time a year ago. □

Street Briefs

Facebook ends at half IPO price

NEW YORK (AP) — Facebook's stock fell to \$19 for the first time on Friday, meaning it has lost half its market value since the company's initial public offering in May. It hit that milestone on Friday, a day after the expiration of a lock-up period. The lock-up's end has provided some early investors and insiders with an opportunity to sell shares. Investors have been concerned about Facebook's ability to increase revenue and make money from its growing mobile audience. Many analysts, however, hold positive opinions of the company's long-term prospects. The stock closed on its first day barely above its initial public offering price of \$38. It has been below that level since. On Friday, the stock fell 87 cents, or 4 percent, to \$19 in afternoon trading. □

Groupon caps week of lows

NEW YORK (AP) — Another day, another low for Groupon's stock. The online deals company issued a lackluster quarterly report after the market closed on Monday. Since Tuesday, the stock has hit a new low every day. It fell another 25 cents, or 5 percent, to close Friday at \$4.75. Earlier in the day, it hit \$4.51. That's down more than three-quarters of its initial public offering price of \$20 in November. On Monday, Groupon Inc. reported its first-ever quarter-to-quarter decline in gross billings — a closely watched measure of how much money is collected from customers. Groupon, which is based in Chicago, blamed the weak economy in Europe and unfavorable currency-exchange rates, but analysts have pointed to a more troubling possibility: online deals fatigue. □



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Blue Monday:

The least loved weekday is also the market's worst

CHRISTINA REXRODE
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It's not just in your head. Mondays really are the worst.

Monday is the only day the stock market is more likely to fall than to rise. The Dow Jones industrial average has been down 10 of the past 11 Mondays. And the two worst days in market history are both known as Black Monday.

There's no single reason why Mondays are so blue. Then again, there's no single reason the market rises or falls on any given day, driven as it is by the whims of traders placing millions of individual buy and sell orders.

Some anecdotal evidence comes to mind: Companies are prone to release bad news on Friday nights, when fewer people are paying attention. Monday is the first day investors can react.

And when companies collapse, they often do it late Sunday or early Monday, after spending a last week-end trying to stay afloat. See Wachovia, Bear Stearns and, most famously, Lehman Brothers investment bank, on Sept. 15, 2008.

Maybe people are just grumpier. They are at least more anxious: The so-called Vix, a gauge of investor fear, tends to go up on Mondays, notes Ryan Detrick, senior technical strategist for Schaeffer's Investment Research in Cincinnati.

The Vix has risen on two-thirds of this year's Mondays. On Tuesdays, the second-most-anxious day, the Vix was up just 58 percent of the time.

Or maybe it's a fluke — another pattern people latch on to to make the market seem more understandable, same as the stories that hemlines go up in bull markets, or that stocks rise if a team from the NFC wins the Super Bowl.

Burton Malkiel wrote about those last two theories in his finance classic, "A Random Walk Down Wall Street." He stuck them in a section called "A Gaggle of Other Technical Theories to Help You Lose Money."

He found the "blue Monday" phenomenon equally underwhelming. "Far from dependable," he says, and "most likely due to chance."

Still, there is a pattern. Howard Silverblatt, senior index analyst for S&P Dow Jones Indices, crunched numbers for the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index back to 1928 and found that melancholy Mondays are a long tradition.

Over the past 84 years, the S&P has declined on 52 percent of the Mondays, Silverblatt says. Same goes for the Dow, going back to 1900. On each of the other four days, the market is more likely to rise than fall. The S&P averages a decline of 0.12 percent on Mondays over history. On each of the other four days, the market averages a gain. (The best is Wednesday, averaging an increase of 0.08 percent.)

This year follows the pattern: For both the S&P and the Dow, Monday is the only day to average a loss. Notably horrible was Monday, June 11, when the Dow fell 142 points because of worries about Spanish debt. □

Apple stock hits new high after 4-month dip

PETER SVENSSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Apple's stock hit a new high Friday after a four-month swoon, as investors looked ahead to the release of a new iPhone and possibly a smaller iPad.

Already the world's most valuable company, Apple Inc. saw its stock hit \$648.19 just before closing, before retreating to \$648.11. That was up \$11.77, or 1.9 percent, from Thursday's close. The previous high for the stock was \$644, hit on April 10.

Apple has a market value of about \$608 billion, almost 50 percent higher than No. 2 Exxon Mobil Corp. at \$408 billion.



Apple's stock fell last month after the company's earnings report for the April-June quarter showed the slowest growth in more than two years. It was only the second time in 10 years that Apple had missed analyst expectations.

Jefferies & Co. analyst Peter Misek raised his price target on the stock to \$900 from \$800 on Friday, saying an "iPad Mini" is in production in China. His belief is based

on readings of reports from Apple's suppliers, contract manufacturers and contacts in the region. He now believes Apple will build 25 million iPads of all kinds in the current quarter, up from a previous estimate of 16 million, which did not include the "Mini."

The Cupertino, Calif., company hasn't said anything about a new iPhone or iPad. bSpeculation about a smaller iPad has been rife this year. Analysts believe Apple wants to make a cheaper tablet computer to counter the threat of the Google Inc.'s Nexus 7 and Amazon.com Inc.'s Kindle Fire, both of which sell for \$199. The cheapest current iPad costs \$399. □

Measure of US economy rose 0.4% in July

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A measure of future U.S. economic activity recovered in July following a sharp drop in June, providing further evidence of an economy that is regaining some momentum.

The Conference Board said Friday that its index of leading economic indicators increased 0.4 percent in July after falling 0.4 percent in June.

The July strength came from an improvement in a number of components with the largest contributions coming from a big jump in applications for housing permits and declines in applications for unemployment benefits.

The rebound last month put the index at 95.8, matching its May level, which had been the highest reading in four years.

Economists viewed the July result as evidence that the economy has regained its footing after a sluggish



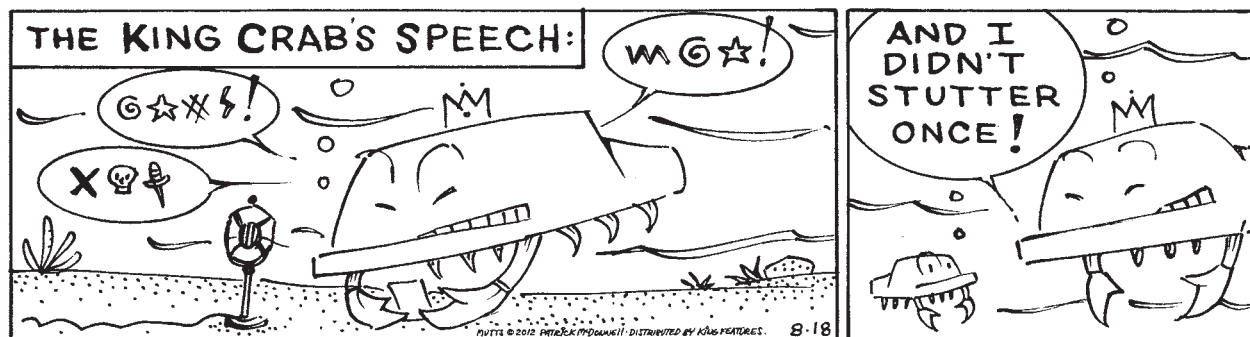
Worker Oscar Rodriguez holds a ladder in Boston, Friday, Aug. 17, 2012. A measure of future U.S. economic activity recovered in July following a sharp drop in June, providing further evidence of an economy that is regaining some momentum.

(AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)

spring that had raised concerns that the country could be in danger of slipping into another recession. \b "The expansion continues, no double-dip recession, just continued moderate, sub-par growth," said John Silvia, chief economist at Wells Fargo. He said he was looking for economic growth of around 1 percent to 2 percent at an annual rate in the current July-September quarter. The economy slowed to growth at a rate of just 1.5 percent in the April-June quarter after growing at a 2 percent pace in the first three months of this year.

The gain in the leading indicators was the latest report showing an improved outlook. This week, there were reports that factory production increased in July and homebuilders were growing more confidence in the housing recovery. □

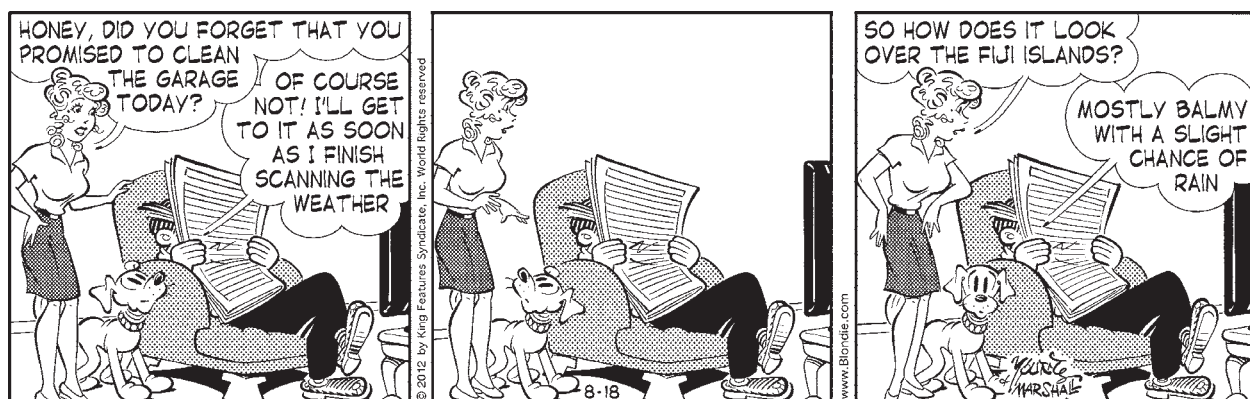
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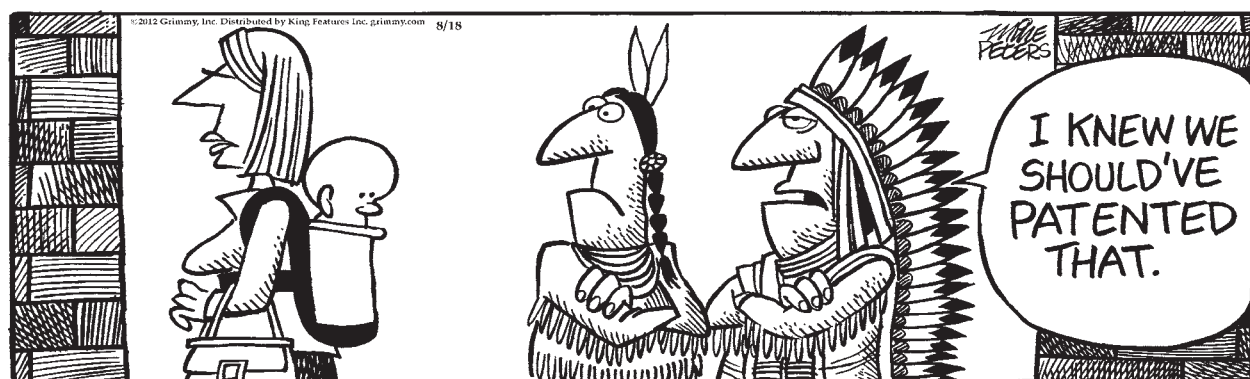
6 Chix



Blondie



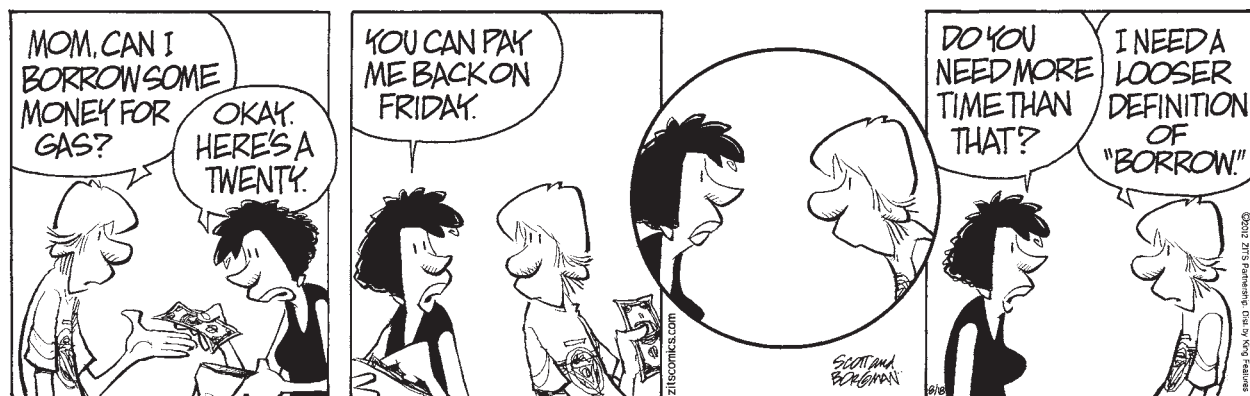
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			2	1	3			
1		7				6		4
		8				5		
	2						9	
		1		7		4		
	6						7	
		4				8		
6		3				1		7
			1	4	6			

Difficulty Level ★★ ★★

8/18

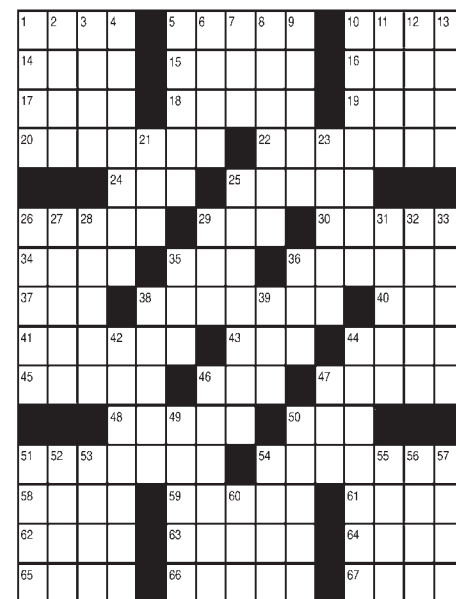
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	5	1	8	3	6	2	4	7
6	7	8	2	5	4	1	9	3
2	3	4	1	9	7	8	5	6
8	4	9	6	2	3	7	1	5
7	1	3	4	8	5	6	2	9
5	6	2	7	1	9	3	8	4
4	2	7	5	6	1	9	3	8
3	8	6	9	4	2	5	7	1
1	9	5	3	7	8	4	6	2

ACROSS

- Loathsome
- Say
- Walking stick
- Biblical garden
- Female relative
- Large continent
- Bench board
- Passes out cards
- Tattered attire
- Monotonous
- Waste away, as muscles from lack of use
- Neckwear item
- Drop in on
- Ring-shaped island
- Neither..._
- Ross or Riggs
- Grow weary
- Spring month
- Train porter
- "_ Believer"; Monkees hit
- Partial returns of payments
- Stylish
- Deadly
- "_ Bless America"
- Make known
- Tire ridge pattern
- Stinging insect
- Group formed to help a sheriff
- Motorcyclist
- Deranged
- Movements
- Canoe propellers
- In _; miffed
- Sea duck
- Actress _ Loughlin
- Marie Presley
- Worship
- "_ go brag"
- SAT, for one
- Ship levels
- Smell strongly
- Not working
- Go first
- Give a name to, as a book
- Inappropriate
- Even scores
- Soothing drink
- Fancy pastry
- Takes a break
- Neck artery
- "Pronto!"
- Near
- Not difficult
- Lubricate
- Carousels, e.g.
- Space program of the 1970s
- Leaning
- Stopwatch
- Give a speech
- Capture
- Muscle pains
- Tacks
- Steve Jobs' company
- Allen or Gibson
- _ as a beet
- Standard car accessory
- Foot digit
- Natural environment
- Little child
- Next to
- Cushion
- Work dough
- Colts' mothers
- Creamy drink
- Early Ron Howard role
- Actress Harper
- Make coffee
- Knowledge of traditions
- 1 of 5 "Greats"
- Fail to float
- 1 of 7 Dwarfs



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/18/12

Friday's Puzzle Solved

J	A	W	S	P	R	O	B	E	M	A	U	L
O	P	I	E	R	E	V	E	L	A	L	S	O
K	I	L	N	O	P	E	N	M	I	N	D	E
E	N	D	B	O	A	R	S	N	A	R	E	
				E	D	I	F	Y	T	A	E	
L	A	B	E	L	S			L	E	A	D	E
I	D	E	A	L		F	R	A	N	C		L
P	I	E	R		F	R	A	U	D		W	E
S	O	S		T	R	E	N	D		J	A	M
			S	T	A	R	E	D		S	E	C
				V	A	T			B	I	S	O
A	Z	T	E	C			D	I	E	T		T
R	E	E	N	T	E	R	I	N	G		N	A
C	R	A	G			L	U	N	G	E		I
H	O	L	E			K	N	E	E	S		T

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8/18/12

For former dot-com millionaire, a fallen-down life

RUSS BUETTNER

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Of the five members of a purported crime ring who appeared in court last month, Jennifer Sultan could not help but stand out. She seemed to have little in common with those said to be her accomplices: among them, a police officer charged with stealing his colleagues' guns to support a painkiller habit and two unemployed young men from Brooklyn and Queens charged with selling guns and drugs. The prosecutor, who opposed bail for most of the defendants, pointed out to the judge in state Supreme Court in Manhattan why each one might be a risk for flight. When it came to Sultan, 38, every head in the courtroom swiveled at the main point: she had once been a dot-com millionaire. The finer details were not mentioned that day: at the high-water mark, she and her boyfriend were co-founders of a small Internet company that sold for \$70 million.

They rented a summer house in the Hamptons for \$400,000. They bought a 6,000-square-foot loft on East 17th Street just off Fifth Avenue. Now, a little more than a decade later, Sultan is bankrupt and sitting in a jail cell, unable to pull together \$85,000 for bail. If convicted, she faces 15 years to life in prison on charges of selling prescription painkillers to an undercover police officer and of trying to sell a .357 Magnum to the man accused of being the ringleader. Her life has in some ways followed the arc of her times, with even more extreme swings. She rode the euphoria of the late-1990s technology stock boom to apparent riches at age 25, saw those fortunes collapse with the stock market in the early 2000s and was unable to stage a comeback in the more sober recession era. To some who have known Sultan, her overwhelming



Jennifer Sultan, center, appears court in New York, July 13, 2012. In a little over a decade, Sultan, 38, went from seeming Internet riches to bankruptcy and an arrest on drug and gun charges. (John Marshall Mantel/The New York Times)

ambition and dalliances with wilder crowds as a young adult in Manhattan made her fall less surprising. But to others, including her close family, the collapse has been bewildering.

"We are treading on water that we have never treaded on before," said her mother, Brenda Sultan. "She is such a sweet, thoughtful person."

She grew up as the middle child between two brothers in West Long Branch, N.J., five miles north of Asbury Park. Her father, David Sultan, owned a dry-cleaning business. Her mother had grown up in Brooklyn and dreamed of an idyllic suburban life for her children. They lived that life in a modest colonial-style house at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac.

Her mother recalls the terror of watching Jennifer, at just 2 years old, perched at the end of a diving board over the deep end of a swimming pool.

"Everybody, look at me!" she shouted as she leapt.

That physical confidence evolved into athletic prowess when she was a student at Shore Regional High School. Jennifer excelled in five sports: soccer, field hockey, softball, swimming and diving.

"She was tough," Brenda Sultan recalled. "She is, in fact, a girlie girl, but she's also very athletic."

Young Jennifer filled stacks of journals with her thoughts and dreamed of writing

children's books. In her senior year of high school, she smiled confidently in her yearbook above a long passage she had written.

"Like a small child I climb up the stairway of life. Have I come to the end or have I only just begun?" the text began. "My collected visions have enabled me to keep dreaming. I must go now, my life awaits."

For Sultan, the city that her mother had left behind held great allure. She was accepted to New York University, her first choice, where she studied literature.

"She just fell in love with the city, and NYU was a fabulous opportunity for her," her mother said. "She did extremely well. She blossomed in college."

She became interested in photography and while still in college parlayed that into freelance work taking pictures of rock stars, including David Bowie and the members of Aerosmith, in posed settings and during concerts, according to her mother and a business associate. □

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A black and white photograph showing a spider on a rough, textured rock surface. The spider is positioned in the center-right of the frame, facing left. Its body is dark and rounded, and its legs are long and thin, extending outwards. The rock surface is highly irregular with many cracks and crevices. The lighting is bright, creating strong highlights and shadows.

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After the spiders were found in the Oregon cave, scientists from San Diego State University went looking in the redwoods of Northern California, and found a spider in the same family, but a new species, living in underground cavities beneath boulders and logs, Griswold said. □



In this March 12, 2012 file photo, guitarist/vocalist Dan Auerbach of The Black Keys performs at Madison Square Garden, in New York.

Associated Press

Pizza Hut, Home Depot deny copying Black Keys

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Attorneys for Pizza Hut and The Home Depot are denying that a pair of ads improperly used music by The Black Keys.

The Grammy-winning band sued the companies in June, claiming they used the band's music to sell pizza and power tools. The companies separately denied the band's allegations in court documents filed Thursday and Friday in Los Angeles.

Each company is asking a judge to have the band pay their attorneys' fees if they win the case.

The Black Keys claim The Home Depot Inc. used elements of its hit "Lonely Boy" in an ad for power tools. The band accuses Pizza Hut Inc. of using elements of the song "Gold On the Ceiling" to sell a cheesy crust pizza.

Both songs appeared on the rock group's seventh album, "El Camino." □

U.S. archdiocese gets stake in 'Gone With the Wind'

ATLANTA (AP) — A relative of the late author Margaret Mitchell is giving the Archdiocese of Atlanta a 50 percent stake in the literary rights to her best-selling novel, "Gone With the Wind."

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reports that the gift includes a 50 percent stake in the trademark to the book and items that belonged to Mitchell.

The bequest was made by Joseph Mitchell, nephew of the late author. Joseph Mitchell, who died in October, was a longtime member of the Cathedral of Christ the King.

Steve Swope, a deacon in the archdiocese who is overseeing the gift, says royalties could be in the "hundreds of thousands" of dollars annually from usage of the book just for productions like ballets and plays. □

Kevin Jonas and wife, Danielle, premiere E! reality show

ALICIA RANCILIO Associated Press NEW YORK (AP) — Viewers who tune into Kevin Jonas' new reality show with his wife, Danielle, will see a different side of the 24-year-old singer.

On "Married to Jonas," Kevin jokes about sex and squabbles with Danielle. The show, which premieres Sunday on E! (10 p.m. EDT), isn't about the Jonas brother who wore a purity ring and seemed too good to be true. This time, he seems more relatable. Kevin says he viewed the show, produced by Ryan Seacrest Productions, as an opportunity to show the public that he and Danielle are a normal couple.

"Doing a show like this, you kind of have to take it in stride, and we looked at it as an opportunity to show who we are as a couple without them making that decision for us," he laughed during a recent interview. Danielle, 25, jokes the one thing that viewers will be surprised to see about her husband is "how messy Kevin is."



This Sept. 12, 2011 file photo shows Singer Kevin Jonas, left, and his wife Danielle Deleasa attend the Cinema Society premiere of "I Don't Know How She Does It", in New York.

Associated Press

And unlike Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey and Jon and Kate Gosselin, Kevin and Danielle say filming the show didn't blow them apart but made their relationship stronger.

"We get to talk so much about things you might put aside and not want to bring up ... and we talk through things more instead of

yelling," she said. The show also follows Kevin and his brothers Nick and Joe as they go back to the studio as the Jonas Brothers. The Jonas Brothers announced Friday that after three years, they will return to the stage for a one-night performance at Radio City Music Hall on Oct. 11. □

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Movie riffs making comeback from theaters to clubs

ALAN SCHER ZAGIER

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)

— Scenes of Tom Cruise filled the big screen, but the moviegoers packed inside a Missouri theater focused their attention on the action playing out away from the film: Three local actors and comics cracking jokes about the star's height, his fervent belief in Scientology and some of his cinematic shortcomings.

Talking back to movies used to attract annoyed stares or the glare of an usher's flashlight, but now audiences in U.S. theaters, comedy clubs and even sports arenas are lining up to hear the heckles.

The focus of the jokes at Kansas City's Screenland Slams on this particular Saturday night was the actor's turn in 1985's "Legend," a Ridley Scott-directed romantic fantasy starring a young Cruise as a forest dweller battling the Lord of Darkness and his goblin henchmen.

"It's one of those movies that have really high aspirations. And there are some things in it that are great — it has really great cinematography," said Tom Lancaster, founder of



This Aug. 17, 2011 photo provided by producer Josh Gemma shows RiffTrax members, from left: Michael J. Nelson, Bill Corbett and Kevin Murphy crack wise on stage during a screening of the 1962 movie "Jack the Giant Killer" at a Nashville, Tenn. More than a decade after the demise of cult TV show "Mystery Science Theater 3000," comedy groups are riffing on bad movies at theaters, nightclubs and sports arenas across the country.

Associated Press

the Kansas City comedy troupe. "But at the end of a day, it's about a unicorn. It's like it was made by a 7-year-old girl. So that's perfect."

More than a decade after the cancellation of smart-alecky 90's cult TV show "Mystery Science Theater 3000," a generation of "Misties" weaned

on the show is embracing the movie riff as its own comedic form. The show's creator and original host Joel Hodgson, along with other former writers and cast members, tours theaters with the popular live show "Cinematic Titanic," firing jokes as schlocky horror and sci-fi movies play in the background.

Another group of "Mystery Science Theater" alums, the San Diego-based RiffTrax, performs its own live shows that are simulcast at multiplexes nationwide, including a Thursday night show of the not-so-classic horror film, "Manos: The Hands of Fate." The RiffTrax collective also creates online audio commentaries that can

be purchased, sans movie, but played back at the user's convenience in perfect sync with the flick.

And comedy clubs and cinemas from Kansas City to Los Angeles and Seattle host their own sanctioned shout-fests, starring performers both well-known (stand-up comic Doug Benson's Movie Interruption at a Hollywood theater) and obscure (Kansas City has two movie-riff comedy troupes). Audience participation also is valued: Theaters in Portland, Oregon, and Austin, Texas, now offer Hecklevision, in which audience members are encouraged to send text messages on their cell phones while their jokes flash onscreen.

"It's very peculiar, but something has changed," said Hodgson, who created "Mystery Science Theater" in 1988 at a local UHF TV station in Minnesota before it was picked up by the Comedy Channel, which later became Comedy Central. "People have accepted it as its own comedic art form," he added. "It's one of the things on the menu if you want to be funny." That wasn't the case early on for Hodgson, a former stand-up comic from Wisconsin whose early-career sabbatical as a toy and prop designer led to the creation of the robot puppets that became central to his show's plot. The puppets were held captive on a spaceship along with their human pal and forced to endure excruciatingly bad B-movies.

The plot allowed the "Mystery Science Theater" crew to riff away on forgettable films like "Teenage Cave Man" and "The Brain That Wouldn't Die." □

The show and other Hodgson projects since it use scripted jokes, while crews such as Lancaster's Kansas City troupe are more improvisational in their movie riff performances.

Fans of the comedic form can now buy riff videos on demand from RiffTrax. Customers also can make and sell their own commentaries via iRiffs. □

U.S. gymnasts enjoy celebrity sparkle after gold

SAMANTHA CRITCHELL

AP Fashion Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — They've been on a whirlwind tour since the Olympics — from "Late Night With David Letterman" to the Empire State Building and the New York Stock Exchange — but gold-medal gymnasts Gabby Douglas and Jordyn Wieber have one more stop before they can truly take a breath: the White House.

President Barack Obama made the invitation in a phone call. "We'll definitely take him up on it," Douglas said.

The girls say they are trying to get the most out of this post-London euphoria. "We're enjoying every step of the way," said Wieber, who with Douglas, McKayla Maroney, Kyla Ross



Members of the 2012 US Women's Gymnastics Olympic Team Jordyn Wieber, left, and Gabby Douglas pose on the observation deck of the Empire State Building, Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2012 in New York.

Associated Press

and Aly Raisman gave the United States its first Olympic team title in women's gymnastics since 1996. Douglas also won the women's all-around individual

gymnastics competition. "We've been having so much fun the past few days," said Douglas, who has Tweeted photos of herself meeting Nicki Minaj,

Karmin and Nick Cannon and has savored online congratulations from Justin Bieber and Taylor Swift. She shared a couch with first lady Michelle Obama on "Tonight" with Jay Leno.

She is still waiting for her invitation to appear on "The Vampire Diaries," hands-down her favorite TV show. Wieber? She'd like a little gig on "Teen Wolf."

Douglas and Wieber acknowledge not being fully prepared for all the attention and publicity. Douglas is 16, and Wieber 17.

Instead of making back-to-school plans, they're preparing for the 40-city Kellogg's Tour of Gymnastics Champions.

"Not many 17-year-old girls get to do this, so I don't feel like we're missing much," Wieber said. □

Let's Make Him Do It



MARK BITTMAN

© 2012 New York Times

For positive change in the issues that affect our daily lives – not only food but also jobs, income, housing – we need active political leadership. But until President Barack Obama is pushed more strongly by the left, the coming presidential election represents a choice between a full-fledged attack on government services and a continuing slide into the gloomy and depressing world of austerity economics. That's a real choice, but it's not a happy one.

When Obama has been pressured on issues, like gay rights, immigration and the Keystone XL pipeline, he's responded positively. But he hasn't been pushed on food and as a result has not followed up on campaign promises like his vow to label foods containing genetically modified ingredients, nor has he used his bully pulpit to try to protect SNAP (food stamps) from the ravages of Congress. Since there isn't a real food movement – yet! – progressives haven't made Obama do much.

At least he won't dismantle government, as Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan would. Ryan's anti-stimulus plan is an unemployment-boosting scheme that would finance the military at a high level, the social safety net at the lowest possible level (Ryan is calling for a 17 percent cut in food stamps, enough to elicit criticisms from a pair of high-ranking Catholic bishops, for example) and just about nothing else. It benefits no one but the superrich and their representatives. Not that that's anything new. Most people – call them working class, middle class or the 99 percent – have less money than they did a generation ago; the superrich have scads more. A vast majority of Americans are on the losing side of the class war, as evidenced by lower pay scales, eviscerated unions, fewer benefits, later retirement, shortened or eliminated vacations, starved municipalities, and of course the quality of our food and the impact it has on us and the environment.

Obama has seen more power and money arrayed against him than perhaps any Democrat ever. But his lack of a workable plan for economic recovery and his right-leaning stances on fiscal responsibility and debt reduction remind us that the basic problem is not one of “progressive” Democrats versus “conservative” Re-

publicans.

This isn't new either: In the past 40 years we've witnessed a long, steady move to the right, which Democrats occasionally whine about, protest and even fight, but in which they've been mostly complicit. Unless you reduce defense budgets – practically unheard of – whenever you cut taxes, you starve social programs and infrastructure, thus undermining the legitimate and beneficial role of government. (Even “progressive” Democrats are onboard with some cuts to food stamps in the as-yet-unpassed farm bill.) With government providing fewer services, it becomes easy to persuade people that it's an albatross, so why not cut taxes further? Enter Paul Ryan.

Candidate Obama led us to believe that he was a different kind of Democrat, and he stirred new and even skeptical old voters. Yet he's disappointed many supporters. You can argue that his hands have been tied: Money is power – Citizens United has made this even more so – and until there's meaningful electoral and campaign-finance reform, along with real limits on lobbying, there's no chance for real progress.

President Obama didn't create this system; he's a product of it. A fundamental problem now is that the right has devised both a strategy and a movement, and the left has done neither.

“All the bold answers are only from one side,” Van Jones, author of “Rebuild the Dream,” told me. “But we have to stop acting like there's one person with agency in America, whose name is Obama. It's not what he should do – it's what we should do.”

That's right. Only by building real movements around food and other important issues can we pressure Obama (or even Romney; just look at the inroads the right made with a Democrat in office) to act in the interests of the great majority. A strategy for this is neatly outlined in the just-published paper “Prosperity Economics” by Jacob Hacker and Nate Loewentheil, which counters the nonsense of austerity economics and lays out a credible plan for public investments and economic security, a plan that could help revive jobs and growth and ensure “that gains are broadly shared.”

Their agenda improves on most economic plans by adding demands for dramatic political reform.

“The best ideas are of little use without political movements, and those movements can only succeed in a political regime in which votes count more than money,” Hacker said to me.

It's worth voting for progressives, but it's equally important to recognize that until there is real pressure from the left, the money and influence of the right will continue to pull any president in that direction. □



The Love Goddess Who Keeps Right On Seducing



MAUREEN DOWD

© 2012 New York Times

Mike Nichols claims he called Marilyn Monroe to work on a scene.

“Are you sure you weren't hitting on her?” I asked.

“I wouldn't have dared dream of it,” he replied.

It was the mid-1950s, and they were both taking an acting class in New York with Lee Strasberg. Nichols recounted his conversation with the woman with the familiar breathy voice:

“The phone rang and somebody said, ‘Hello,’ and I said, ‘Hi, is Marilyn there?’ and she said, ‘No, she's not,’ and I said, ‘Well, this is Mike. I'm in class with her. Could you take a message?’ And she said, ‘Well, it's a holiday,’ because it was the Fourth of July weekend, and that, to her, was an excuse for not taking a message for herself.”

No one ever said Marilyn wasn't complicated.

Nichols directed the Tony Award-winning revival of her third husband's play, “Death of a Salesman.” I interviewed him for a BBC radio show based on a column I wrote for The Times about how we have devolved from Marilyn's aspirational attitude toward knowledge, in which she wanted to collect great books and meet authors and intellectuals – even marrying one – to Sarah Palin's anti-elitist scorn about reading and intellectuals.

Nichols surprised me when he said he was present at what he dryly calls the “historic moment” in May 1962 when Marilyn sang “Happy Birthday” to Jack Ken-

nedy, who was turning 45. Marilyn was wearing that shrink-wrap, sheer Jean Louis gown ablaze with rhinestones – “skin and beads,” she called it. Nichols and Elaine May were also performing that night in Madison Square Garden, not that anyone remembers.

“I was standing right behind Marilyn, completely invisible, when she sang ‘Happy birthday, Mr. President,’” Nichols said. “And indeed, the corny thing happened: Her dress split for my benefit, and there was Marilyn, and yes, indeed, she didn't wear any underwear.”

At a party afterward, “Elaine and I were dancing, and Bobby Kennedy and Marilyn danced by us, and I swear to God the conversation was as follows –”

Here Nichols put on, first, a feathery voice and then a nasal one: “‘I like you, Bobby.’

“‘I like you too, Marilyn.’”

“When she walked, it was as though she had a hundred body parts that moved separately in different directions,” Gelb told me on the BBC show. “I mean, you didn't know what body part to follow.”

Wherever I travel in the world, I run across the luminous image of the heartbreaking and breathtaking sex symbol who was smart enough to become the most famous “dumb blonde” of the 20th century. Marilyn, her white pleated halter dress flying up over the New York subway grate, is as deeply etched in the global imagination as Audrey Hepburn in a black Givenchy dress at Tiffany's.

Starting as the 1948 Castroville, Calif., artichoke queen, Marilyn was a genius at self-creation, high gloss over deep wounds. “Marilyn's like a veil I wear over Norma Jeane,” she said.

Lois Banner, a professor of history and gender studies at the University of Southern California, hails the star in her new book, “Marilyn: The Passion and the Paradox,” as a proto-feminist who had to swim upstream past a mentally ill mother, 12 foster homes, a stutter,

sexual abuse as a child, sexism as a star, manic-depressive cycles, addiction, Joe DiMaggio's abuse and Arthur Miller's condescension. “She is the child in all of us,” Banner writes, “the child we want to forget but can't dismiss.”

Half a century after Marilyn was found on Aug. 5, 1962, in her Brentwood bedroom, nude, holding her phone, soaked in drugs, she continues to bewitch: her death at 36 and the sketchy cover-up; her tempestuous marriages to a famous baseball player and famous playwright; her role, with Jack and Bobby Kennedy, in the most intriguing film noir triangle of all time.

She gazes wistfully from the latest People, beside Rob and Kristen, with the headline, “Was Marilyn Murdered?”

“Could the iconic bombshell,” USA Today asked, “be any more alive?”

She made \$27 million last year, gobs more than she ever earned in life. She was the poster girl at Cannes, a festival she never attended. And her time in England making “The Prince and the Showgirl” was the subject of a movie that got two Oscar nominations, even though the golden girl never won a gold statuette herself.

While making her last movie, “Something's Got to Give,” Marilyn posed nude for a young photographer, Larry Schiller, hoping to ratchet up her \$100,000 salary to Elizabeth Taylor's million-dollar territory for “Cleopatra.”

Schiller wrote in Vanity Fair that he saw the confidence that spurred Marilyn to become one of the first stars to create her own production company. “There isn't anybody that looks like me without clothes on,” she laughed. He also saw her dark companion, insecurity. “Is that all I'm good for?” she keened about nudity.

Yet Schiller told The Associated Press that “it's women that have kept Marilyn alive, not men.” He says teenage girls flock to see gallery shows, and that the photos selling now accentuate her humanity, not her anatomy. □

Syrian conflict threatens ancient treasures in Aleppo



The Citadel in Aleppo, Syria. Preservationists and archeologists are warning that fighting in Syria's commercial capital Aleppo -- considered the world's oldest continuously inhabited human settlement -- threatens to irreparably damage the stunning architectural and cultural legacy left by 5,000 years of civilizations.

(Salah Malkawi/The New York Times)

PATRICIA COHEN

© 2012 New York Times

Preservationists and archaeologists are warning that fighting in Syria's commercial capital, Aleppo -- considered the world's oldest continuously inhabited human settlement -- threatens to damage irreparably the stunning architectural and cultural legacy left by 5,000 years of civilizations. Already the massive iron doors to the city's immense medieval Citadel have been blown up in a missile attack, said Bonnie Burnham, president of the World Monuments Fund, an organization that works to preserve cultural heritage sites. The fund has collaborated for more than a decade with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, the Syrian government's Cultural Ministry and German archaeologists in excavating and restoring the site.

President Bashar Assad's forces have been shelling the city, and in recent days his army has taken up positions inside the Citadel, trading fire with insurgents through the castle's arrow loops, according to news reports. Built on a massive outcropping of rock, the easily defended Citadel has been an important strategic military point for millennia and is once again

serving that function.

Among the significant archaeological sites endangered is the Temple of the Storm God, which dates from the third to the second millennium B.C. and which Burnham identified as one of the oldest structures in the world. Never opened to the public, the recently discovered temple and its huge carved reliefs are protected only by sandbags and a flimsy corrugated tin roof, she said.

Aleppo's labyrinthine streets reveal a microcosm of human history. Beneath the Citadel are remains of Bronze Age friezes and Roman fortresses. The entire walled Old City, with its 12th-century Great Mosque, thousands of pastel-colored medieval courtyard houses, Arab souks and 17th-century stone madrasas, an Ottoman palace and hammams, is recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, the United Nations cultural arm. Images of the Citadel show rubble in some locations, but it is difficult to verify the extent to which either side is responsible for any damage.

The Syrian National Council, a coalition of anti-government forces, issued a communique saying that the Citadel was damaged

on Friday by an army rocket. Al-Jazeera filmed rebels last week talking about the need to capture the Citadel.

Burnham warned that looting could inflict further damage on the city. She said she was informed about the destruction from archaeologists in the United States, Europe and the Middle East who have been in contact by telephone and through the Internet with eyewitnesses in Aleppo.

"People initially thought Damascus and Aleppo would be spared," she said. "This is the richest cultural area of the Middle East, so there is really a lot to lose here."

Located at the intersection of ancient trade routes, Aleppo has seen empires rise and fall. The armies of Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, Tamerlane and the Muslim general Saladin have at one time or another both attacked and defended the spot.

In 1996 a team of German and Syrian archaeologists began to peel back another layer of the region's history, unearthing some of the 5,000-year-old Temple of the Storm God beneath the Citadel. The temple contains a monumental frieze of basalt relief sculptures created by the ancient Hittites, whose empire once stretched from Anatolia to northern Syria. It marks "one of the great religious centers" of the ancient world," the magazine Archaeology reported in 2009, as the excavations were being finished, and offers "a unique glimpse into the religious architecture, beliefs and practices of the ancient Near East over a vast span of time."

The team found other treasures beneath the dirt and rubble, including a relief of

the storm god -- perhaps a counterpart to the Greeks' thunderbolt-wielding Zeus -- that dates back to the 14th century B.C., and 7-foot sculptures of a lion and a sphinx.

The Citadel itself was the centerpiece of what Nicolai Ouroussoff, the former architecture critic of The New York Times, called "one of the most far-thinking preservation projects in the Middle East."

The World Monuments Fund and the Aga Khan Trust restored this medieval landmark, as well as hundreds of old houses; rebuilt streets; and planned a 42-acre park to upgrade and integrate the surrounding community. A museum on the site was also planned.

The fund was compelled to withdraw from the project about 18 months ago, Burnham said, because of the growing instability in Syria. The Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in Armed Conflict, drawn up in 1954 in the wake of the devastating losses inflicted during World War II, requires countries to ensure the safety of significant cultural sites, monuments, museums and libraries. More than 120 countries, including the United States and Syria, have signed the agreement. □



An undated handout photo of an archaeological site inside the Citadel, Temple of the Storm God. Preservationists and archeologists are warning that fighting in Syria's commercial capital Aleppo -- considered the world's oldest continuously inhabited human settlement -- threatens to irreparably damage the stunning architectural and cultural legacy left by 5,000 years of civilizations.

(Gaetano Palumbo/World Monuments Fund via The New York Times)